

## Party leaders to discuss Mansfield's po victory

The election of Robert Sands, the Provisional prisoner and hunger-striker, as MP for Fermanagh and South Tyrone faces the Government with a critical decision. Party leaders discuss the matter at the Commons on Monday. Even if he is allowed to keep his seat, he is likely to be dead of starvation soon.

## Commons may expel fasting IRA man

Mr Christopher Thomas, MP for Fermanagh and South Tyrone, faces a critical decision on whether to allow Mr Sands to remain in the Commons. Mr Sands is a hunger-striker and a member of the IRA. He was elected to the Commons on Monday.

	1981	1979	Change
Anti-H-Block	51.2%	—	—
Off UU	48.8%	26.0%	+20.8%
Ind	—	36.0%	—
SDLP	—	17.3%	—
UUUP	—	17.0%	—
Alliance	—	1.7%	—
UUUC	—	—	—
Marx Len	—	—	—
Poll	82.3%	87.1%	-4.8%
Voters	72,449	71,481	+868

Mr Sands intends to continue his 42-day hunger strike and has decided after all not to resign his seat. There seems to be nothing in present circumstances that can stop him dying in the next two or three weeks.

He defeated Mr Harold West, of the Official Unionists by 30,492 votes in 29,046, a majority of 1,446 in an 86.8 per cent poll. The poll figure takes into account spoilt papers.

He is legitimately and properly an MP with immediate effect, but he will not draw a salary, which is payable only after an MP takes his seat.

As to what happens next, an individual MP could ask the Commons to decide that Mr Sands is an unacceptable member and should be expelled: the Government could move a motion to the same effect, which, according to precedent, would probably be moved by the Attorney General; or the House could see it out until Mr Sands dies, after which there would be another by-election.

Mr Sands, who has served 4 years of a 14-year sentence for possessing firearms, is in the hospital wing of the Maze prison near Belfast and is believed to be displaying the early signs of starvation: dizziness, severe headaches, and are trouble.

The critical stage comes after 50 days when he might die at any time of a heart attack. He has lost two stone and is too weak to leave his bed. He is likely to be kept in hospital outside the prison next week.

The political implications of his election are grave. It has dealt a severe blow to the stronghold of moderate Roman Catholic opinion, the Social Democratic and Labour Party, from which it may never fully recover. Reclamations over the party's failure to contest the seat are biting deep.

The question that is bitterly disputed is whether Roman Catholics voted for an IRA man, or against a Unionist. It is a subtlety that is acutely important. To the Provisional Sinn Féin and the IRA the answer is clear: The campaign of violence has been vindicated at the polls, and must go on.

## Japan angry over US submarine collision

From Patrick Brogan  
Washington, April 10  
The United States Navy admitted today that its Polaris submarine, George Washington, collided with the Japanese cargo ship Nissho Maru off the Japanese coast yesterday, but said no help could be given because the crippled ship disappeared in fog and rain.

Two of the 15 crew on the Japanese ship, which went down, are missing. The others were picked up today. The statement said: "The submarine surfaced immediately to offer assistance to the merchant vessel. However, the vessel disappeared from sight due to poor visibility caused by fog and rain. The submarine was unable to observe personnel casualties or damage to the Japanese vessel before its disappearance from view."

The Pentagon corroborated the Japanese claim that USS George Washington surfaced, looked at the damaged freighter, and then submerged again. It contends, however, that it lost sight of the vessel while on the surface.

The accident took place at 10 am local time yesterday, about 110 miles off Japan, where the submarine was conducting "routine operations at shallow depth". An American aircraft was within the submarine's search radius for the freighter, but failed to find it.

As the Pentagon statement put it: "It was later reported that the Japanese merchant vessel sank shortly after the collision." It did not say whether the ship search was carried out before the freighter sank.

The Pentagon says that it deeply regrets "this unfortunate accident", and that it is being investigated. The George Washington is described officially as a fleet ballistic missile submarine. It is 116.3 metres long, its draught 8.8 metres, and its displacement 6,888 tons. It carries a crew of 112 and its captain is Commander Robert Voehl.

Japanese criticism: The 13 survivors of the Nissho Maru, who arrived in southern Japan tonight, said the submarine came to the surface momentarily after the collision 30 miles off a small Japanese island. They said nobody appeared on its deck and it disappeared back below the waves as the freighter, filled with water and sank. (Reuters reports from Tokyo.)

Commentators on Japanese television tonight said questions had to be answered over the "hit-and-run" tactics of the George Washington.

Some of the survivors told reporters they saw a periscope observing them as they drifted in their rubber rafts but they were not picked up until rescued by a Japanese destroyer 18 hours later.

The Japanese Foreign Ministry said the American Ambassador, Mr Mike Mansfield, had expressed deep regret over the George Washington's involvement in the collision.

The United States is expected to be criticized in Japan because the American statement was not issued here until about 36 hours after the accident.

A United States Navy announcement in Tokyo said that neither the 16 Polaris missiles nor the nuclear reactor on board the submarine were damaged in the collision. The George Washington had suffered only minor damage to the outside of its "sail" or conning tower.

Photograph, page 2  
Leading article, page 13

has lost weight (about 100, according to the doctors) and looks rather haggard. This, we are told, is to be expected from a man recovering from a chest wound.

He has been doing some light work, about six hours a day, and will continue his convalescence in the White House and, then, probably, at Camp David, in the Maryland mountains north of here.

## Computer fault causes another dent to Nasa's hopes of renewed prestige Space shuttle launch postponed until tomorrow

From Michael Leppman  
New York, April 10  
The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) has its tail between its legs today after yet another delay in its costly and badly troubled space shuttle programme.

The maiden flight of the Columbia, a new concept in space technology, was delayed at least until 9 am on Sunday because of a computer problem which appeared less than half an hour before the scheduled launch time.

The dumpy, delta-winged reusable space craft, looking rather like Concorde with middle-age spread, stays on the ground here, hugging its huge fuel tank and twin booster rockets.

The Columbia astronauts, Commander John Young and Captain Robert Crippen, instead of enjoying the dramatic long-distance view of earth that they had been looking forward to, were facing two more days of mid-afternoon bed times and canteen food at their quarters here. "Aah, huggadee of thousands of people who had camped out all night to see the launch went home disappointed."

The frustrated spectators were not half so disappointed, though, as space officials here, who had seen the shuttle as a way to restore Nasa's prestige to the level it enjoyed during the successful moon landings.

The shuttle is already three years behind its first projected launch date, partly through lack of money, but mainly because of serious setbacks in its development.

Yesterday's specific snag was with the back-up computer, which supports the four main computers inside the cabin.

After delays earlier in the week, the countdown over the past two days had been desperately trouble free. The fast adrenaline flow provoked by the impending launch, however, was further aroused by this inopportune performance continued until 6.25 am today—25 minutes before launch time—when the malfunctioning computer was first detected.

Mr Neil Hutchinson, chief of Nasa's technical directorate at Houston, Texas, said later that it was not yet clear what the precise problem was. There seemed to have been a "timing skew" between the back-up and the four main computers and this had interfered with communication. It was, he said, "statistical Murphy".

Asked about the prospects for a Sunday launch, he said: "An awful lot depends on how well we understand the problem."

While the craft can fly and operate with one computer out of action, it is Nasa policy never to launch a space flight with any part of the equipment inoperative.

The countdown was held for three hours but at 10 am (4 pm British Summer Time), it was decided to call off today's attempt.

It was thought that the computer programmers would take at least several hours to look for the cause of the problem and there was a limit to the time doctors would allow the launch to be delayed.

The launch cannot be rescheduled for earlier than Sunday because of the hydrogen tanks. These have to be drained of their fuel today and, because of the extremely low temperature of the hydrogen, it is unsafe to refill them without waiting at least 24 hours.

It is in any case possible that the computer trouble will take more than two days to resolve. It could mean running through the entire flight programme again—a lengthy process.

Countdown, page 2  
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Captain Robert Crippen and Commander John Young (front) returning to base.

## Plea for 6% public pay rise limit next year

By George Clark  
Political Correspondent

While the Government struggles with the Civil Service, it is offering a 7 per cent pay increase for this year, Mr Francis Pym, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Leader of the Commons, gave a warning last night that public sector pay rises next year should be held to 5 or 6 per cent.

That was the interpretation put by MPs on his statement to a Conservative meeting in Fulbourn, Cambridgeshire, that the Government will be levelling out expenditure plans on the basis of pay rises in the public sector in middle single figures.

He added: "That is all the country can afford. Those who go for more will be putting jobs—both their own and others—at risk. Those who accept less will be making room for more employment."

Mr Pym, Minister responsible for coordinating the Government's flow of information on policy, was obviously addressing the trade unions in advance of conference decisions.

"Trade unionists from every sphere of our economic life will be gathering in the coming months to set the tone of their approach to a number of issues, including pay claims," he said.

"While we must differentiate between claims and settlements, we must recognize that some unions have it in their power to impose unreasonable demands on the community."

He should clearly understand that the consequence of securing their unreasonable and unjustifiable objectives, would be higher prices for their goods; less investment in their industry; fewer jobs now and also fewer jobs later, both for them and for fellow workers in other industries.

"They would, in reality, be selling job security for few extra pounds in their pay packet."

At the same time, said Mr Pym, they had it in their power to reap the benefits of the effort.

effort, everyone in the public sector would be an increasingly competitive economy, and the foundation for real new jobs in the future.

"You may well argue that it is up to the Government to set an example," said Mr Pym. "We have done this by making 6 per cent more money available for public service pay settlements this year. We are also provisionally assuming the same figure for next year. That is the amount of money which the Government believes the country can realistically afford, and within which negotiations must operate."

The Government, does accept that it has to play its part in seeing that pay settlements reflect the economic realities."

Mr Pym said there was no escaping the fact that there were parts of the public sector, like those in the nationalized industries in which the Government did not exercise direct control, where the use of the industrial weapon could be effective. "That has been particularly true where there is an element of monopoly power."

He said workers in those industries that the rest of us are settling moderately, so should they be encouraged and persuaded to settle moderately too."

Mr Denis Healey, the Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer, speaking in Woking, Surrey, last night said that the CBI, the Common Market monetary committee, and Mr Edward du Cann, the chairman of the Conservative Party in Parliament, nor to speak of the majority of British economists, had all agreed this week on one thing: that Mrs Thatcher's policies were "doomed" to disaster.

"Mrs Thatcher persists in driving Britain to catastrophe and adding yet another million to the debt queues because she is too proud to admit that she is wrong," Mr Healey said.

Civil Service dispute, page 2

## Poles face dearer food and 60-day strike ban

By George Clark  
Political Correspondent

Warsaw, April 10—Poland's Solidarity trade union called for a 60-day ban on strikes and for other emergency measures to save the country from total chaos.

General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the Prime Minister, called for the ban in a speech to the Sejm (Parliament) and threatened to resign if his proposals were rejected.

The Solidarity trade union said it is possible that it did not want to strike, but might do so if its security was threatened.

The Government also announced that food prices would have to rise because of the country's economic problems.

Poland's state-controlled press indicated that Jaruzelski seems poised to take the politically unpopular step, which has triggered the downfall of two previous administrations.

Officials have emphasized that no new increases would be announced without consultations with Solidarity.

Agence France-Press

polish were alleged to have attacked other actions.

The Prime Minister was loudly applauded at the end of his speech, leaving little doubt that the Sejm would approve his proposals.

But General Jaruzelski also reaffirmed his Government's commitment to the process of political renewal, praised moderates in Solidarity, and said he wanted genuine cooperation with the movement.

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Agence France-Press

## Stock market price surge ends

By Andrew Goodrich-Clarke  
Financial Editor

Two heady weeks on the London stock market, during which ordinary shares prices have risen almost 20 per cent, ended yesterday morning when the mood changed on rumours that a leading stockbroker firm was in serious financial trouble.

This was confirmed after the market closed when the Stock Exchange declared Heddewick Sticking-Crombar to be in default.

Rumours about Heddewick's difficulties began to circulate in the morning. Until then it had seemed that the market in ordinary shares would reach an all-time high point as measured by the FT ordinary share index, an hourly calculated measure of investor confidence.

Instead the market was stopped in its tracks. After a rise of 6.5 points by noon at 557.4, amazingly short of the record of 588.6 reached on May 4 1979, shares fell back. By the end of trading the index was showing a gain of only 1.5 at 551.3.

Nevertheless, the buoyancy of ordinary share prices since the Budget has suggested that a "bull" market might be under way. Since Budget Day on March 10 the FT ordinary index has risen by 67 points or nearly 14 per cent. More broadly-based indices have reached record levels.

Investors, including large institutions, have been moving available money from gilt-edged investment where they believe the market is suffering from inflation, to equities on the view that the recession has bottomed out.

They expect manufacturing companies, now more efficient as a result of shedding excess capacity and working during the recession, to report a revival in profits later this year.

Stock market boom, page 12  
Brokers hammered, page 17

## Now there's an easy way out



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FROM HEATHROW THE EASY WAY OUT

## Haig welcome for British Mid-East role

Mr Alexander Haig, the American Secretary of State, is understood to favour a bigger British presence in the Middle East than at the expense of withdrawing some troops from Europe. Although no official confirmation is forthcoming, he apparently laid emphasis in his Whitehall talks yesterday on the value of British diplomatic experience in the region.

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## Finnish Premier defeats critics

Mr Mauno Koivisto, the Finnish Prime Minister, has won a power struggle against moves within the coalition government to replace him. President Kekkonen is said to have wanted the Prime Minister to resign.

Page 4

## Israel raids Lebanon

Israeli forces carried out land, sea and air attacks on Palestinian bases in southern Lebanon, killing between 14 and 19 people. In one of the largest raids Israeli paratroops clashed with guerrillas near the Palestinian stronghold of Nabatiya.

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## Foot attack on SDP 'South Sea Bubble'

Mr Michael Foot, the Labour leader, said the Social Democrats' fund-raising methods reminded him of the South Sea Bubble swindle, and Mrs Shirley Williams said the SDP was "thoroughly enjoying" a collective leadership and might not choose a leader.

Discrimination: Women in the Civil Service get the lowest jobs, educationists say.

Libel: The Spectator is to pay substantial damages to an Irish author. 4

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# Civil Service threat to Easter travel

By Donald Macintyre  
Labour Reporter

Ministers are considering whether to give a more definite outline of a possible future pay formula for the Civil Service in a government statement expected next week.

As the Council of Civil Service Unions stepped up its action yesterday, it was also said in Whitehall that no decision had yet been taken whether or when to bring in Royal Navy personnel for refitting the Polaris submarine, Resolution, at bases on the Clyde.

Between 20 and 30 civil servants at the secret communications station at Hawlaw, near Perth, yesterday agreed to join the strike with 25 key officials at the Passport Office at Glasgow.

The unions said that the action at the communications centre would affect the surveillance of defence-related signals traffic from monitoring satellites.

The unions expect that the strike at Glasgow will halt the issue of passports there. They claimed that the office has a two-to-three-week backlog and that Easter is a peak time in which 10,000 applications are handled a week.

The unions will also reveal today a package of disruptive measures they expect to hamper passengers travelling through the ports and airports during Easter. Customs and immigration staff are expected to take action.

Any political initiative, however, rests with ministers' discussions about the form of the Government's statement, which may be made on Wednesday by Lord Soames, Lord President of the Council and minister responsible for the Civil Service.

Options under discussion are said to range from a bald restatement of the Government's position to one including a clearer indication of what the

The Council of Civil Service Unions stepped up its disruptive action and promised worse to come. Today the unions plan to unveil a package of measures which they expect to delay passengers using the sea and airports at Easter.

Government intends to be the formula for determining Civil Service pay.

It is thought ministers have been considering whether they would confine themselves to a formula which would run from 1983 or indicate a possible method for determining pay as early as 1982.

Even ministers who might favour the inclusion of a new initiative in a government statement on the dispute are said to be conscious of the dangers of immediate rejection by the council, rather than laying the basis for possible talks.

Senior shop stewards representing industrial civil servants at the Faslane and Coulport bases, where the Resolution is due to be refitted, have said they would refuse to do supply and rearmament work under management.

Submarine "will sail", Lord Soames said in Birmingham yesterday that the Resolution would sail despite the civil servants' refusal to carry out vital rearmament and supply work.

He said there was always one submarine on patrol and as far as the Government was concerned, in the interest of the

country it should continue, and it would.

"Whatever is necessary will be done and hopefully it will be done by those meant to do it."

"If not by them, by others," he continued. "By what others I do not know, that will be judged by those on the spot. The decision has been taken: the ship will sail, and it is right to try to stop it."

He said that having heard of health service workers setting for 7 per cent, it makes me all the sadder that the Civil Service are striking for 7 per cent. I told them before they took industrial action that they could not improve on the cash limit and that we were ready and wanting to talk to them."

A great number were working loyally for their service and what they regarded as their jobs. Many people would be glad of 7 per cent and the job security which went with it.

"This should not be happening. It is doing the country damage. I am not trying to put a figure on it of how much money is being stopped here or there, for I do not think that is it."

"There is perhaps room for argument about the degree of damage being done but there should not be any damage being done. God knows, the country has enough problems on its plate without self-inflicted wounds."

Navy plans: The Royal Navy last night was still considering a number of contingency plans to protect the efficiency of its Polaris submarine force.

Officers, however, would not discuss their plans or any other aspect of the country's strategic deterrent.

How seriously the four-boats deterrent force could be affected by industrial action would depend very much on how long the action lasted.

Her weekend could herald a huge walkout

## Woman at centre of Polaris conflict

By Donald Macintyre  
Labour Reporter

Miss Margaret Platt, one of the small group of trade union officials responsible for the civil servants' threatening the refit of the Polaris submarine, Resolution, may be in for a busy weekend.

If the Government decides, as it has indicated it may do, to use Royal Navy personnel to carry out supply and rearmament work on the vessel over the next few days, the Civil Service unions have promised walkouts across the country by their 540,000 members.

Miss Platt, a slightly reserved, former Inland Revenue lawyer, became at 49 a deputy general secretary of the Institution of Professional Civil Servants only last Christmas. The highlight into which she has been rapidly thrust by the conflict at the Faslane and Coulport bases is certainly not one she has courted.

While she appeared with aplomb on the Jimmy Young programme on Radio 2 yesterday, publicity comes to her less naturally than to some of her more extrovert counterparts in the other Civil Service unions.

Yet as convener of the union campaign committee's defence working party she did not shrink when she sees as her responsibility to speak up for the Ministry of Defence members who incurred the Prime Minister's anger in the Commons on Thursday.

Asked directly about the implications to Britain's de-



Miss Margaret Platt: "Action not taken lightly."

defence of the present action, Miss Platt says quietly: "Our people had to think very seriously about this before we ever started the campaign."

"Our members did not go into this in a light-hearted way and I think the Prime Minister was misleading people by suggesting otherwise. By implying that they have taken action lightly she is seriously under-rating them."

"They have only got themselves into this situation because of the fact that the Government has so clearly been seen to break agreements. I think that Mrs Thatcher's statement in the Commons will prove counter-productive."

Miss Platt firmly rejects the "merest" suggestion that her members at the Scottish bases may be casual about Britain's nuclear defences. The technicians and radiographers, among her 30 members on strike at the two bases, she says crisply, are "people who have chosen to serve in the Ministry of Defence."

"These are people who work alongside naval personnel and see themselves as part of the same community, integrated as part of a joint team in the

Ministry of Defence. But the real test will be about the way they have been treated."

Miss Platt, herself, is a "middle-of-the-road" Labour sympathiser and points out: "If you believe in unilateral disarmament, you believe in disarmament in tremendous defence cuts you are not likely to come to work for the IPCS." About half of the IPCS membership is in the MOD.

Mr. William Wright, the union's other deputy general secretary, is the senior officer directly responsible for the MOD, but Miss Platt's present role arises from the fact that she is the union's representative on the key joint campaign committee.

She became active in the union initially without any thought of becoming a full-time official in the dispute. She spent in the Revenue's States duty department after leaving Bedford College, London, with a history degree. She read for the bar while working as a civil servant.

When a job at the IPCS came up it seemed time for a change. Miss Platt rose to become an assistant general secretary responsible for the Department of the Environment.

But a main draw of an ever-like Badminton is the social exchange. The Clarissas and the Jessicas would not dream of being anywhere else this weekend. They could be heard everywhere yesterday, their elongated vowels gouging the air like a Scillon scoop.

They are dressed down in country uniforms: the Clarissas in green, the Jessicas in grey. The Jessicas are wearing quilted jackets and matching wellies, their husbands and boy friends in tweed sports jackets and socially inverted flat caps.

But Badminton is no longer only for the money, the landed and the well-to-do. There are four lone "mods" in leather jackets and with coloured hair, wore spurs in respect for the occasion.

Today the trials committee is extending about 200,000 spectators, most of whom are many dogs. At the lake, where riders make a splash for it, there will be about 10,000 people, standing 40 deep.

Over the five days of the meeting, the number of million people will have arrived, some in coaches from as far away as Carlsbad.

The best lunches are to be had from the back of a Range Rover, smoked salmon sandwiches washed down with a glass of white champagne. Then it is off to the course of 33 stern fences, where riders topple in a protracted upper class Grand National.

Though it is strictly a sport for amateurs, a horse can cost between £8,000 and £5,000 a year to keep and a serious three-day competitor will have much energy for full-time work.

Correction

STS Limited state that the accident to the tank containing anhydrous ammonia which was derailed at Hatfield, Derbyshire, on Wednesday was the first major derailment of such a wagon in Britain and that, contrary to an earlier report, no one was injured and no contents escaped. The tanker was designed and built to the strict standards in force in the United Kingdom.

## NEB firm plans link with hospital

By Bill Johnston  
Business News Staff

Britain's most famous children's hospital is considering collaborating with a paediatric hospital to be opened in west London this summer by United Medical Enterprises.

Mr. Ted Hayward, deputy house governor of Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children, confirmed that UME, whose chairman is Mr. Christopher Chataway, had been in discussion with the hospital for several months.

He emphasized that no plans had been made and that discussions were still taking place over collaboration between Great Ormond Street, and a new paediatric hospital to be built in Great Portland Street.

Mr. Hayward, deputy chairman of UME, which is 20 per cent owned by the National Enterprise Board (NEB), said that the company had looked at the possibility of a possible area of expansion for the company's operations.

The company, formed four years ago, has sales of more than £20m derived from provision of hospital supplies and management.

Mr. Hayward refused to confirm or deny whether other sites, particularly in the West Country, Birmingham and Newcastle upon Tyne, had been selected by the company as preferred areas of expansion.

He said that discussions by UME and Great Ormond Street have been encouraged by the Government.

Labour warning: Health care was much too important to be abandoned to market forces, Mrs. Gwyneth Dunwoody, MP for Croydon, said in opposition yesterday. (Our Political Staff writes.)

"A future Labour government would have no hesitation in taking back into public ownership hospitals sold off by the Tories to private health care firms," she said.

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## Gentlemen must beat the cads

By Hugh Noyes  
Parliamentary Correspondent  
Westminster

What Voltaire said about God he could have said with equal justification about Mr. John Stokes, Conservative MP for Halesowen and Stourbridge.

"St. M. Stokes n'existant pas, il faudrait l'inventer."

Among the dreary ranks of lawyers, public relations executives and failed academics, Mr. Stokes, with his robust, honest but rare brand of patriotism, stands out in the House of Commons like a shining beacon in an everlasting fog.

Yesterday was his most glorious hour as he called the attention of MPs to the state of the British constitution and its great institutions, deploring the attacks on them by those who ought to know better.

The electorate of Halesowen and Stourbridge, and indeed fortunate in their MP. Parliament would be a dreary place without him. Even Mr. Chapman Pincher would be hard pressed to discover a KGB mole in Mr. Stokes's cupboard. He might as well accuse the monarch himself.

As it happened, "those who ought to know better" stayed away from the Commons yesterday.

day and so were unable to enjoy the stalwart defence of monarchy, the church, Parliament, the judiciary, the Armed Services of the Crown and the police.

As the debate progressed there were learned discourses on the constitution by Sir Derek Walker-Smith, QC (Tory, Hertford, East), pompous lectures on bills of rights by Mr. Douglas Hoag (Tory, Grantham), who could already be mistaken for his father, the Lord Chancellor, if you closed your eyes; and pleas for proportional representation from Mr. Clement Freud, the lone standard bearer on this occasion for the Liberal Party.

But it was Mr. Stokes who deserved the only oratorical accolades of the day. Lurking in the background throughout much of the proceedings was Mr. William Hamilton, Labour MP for Fife Central, the scourge of the monarchy and all things royal.

Mr. Stokes and Mr. Hamilton are about as far apart as are the north and south polar regions. So it was perhaps just that the two should be matched in the Commons yesterday.

Mr. Stokes, the honourable member for Fife Central, did not choose to cross swords on this occasion.

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One by one and in glorious style, Mr. Stokes dealt with the great institutions. There was no spectacle, he said, to surpass that of the Queen opening Parliament. He loved to see less fortunate foreigners such as republicans from France or the United States envying our monarchy and its prestige.

As for the House of Lords, hereditary peers were an essential element and their behaviour was impeccable.

"We are the microcosm of the nation," he said. There were, perhaps, a few too many lawyers and public relations men and not enough knights of the shire.

With a final boost for the landed gentry and the dismissal of horrid foreign ideas such as written constitutions and bills of rights, he assured the House that the Government would be all right as long as it was run by gentlemen and not by cads.

He hoped there would always be enough gentlemen in Parliament to prevent the cads getting away with it. By this time, there was not a cad anywhere in sight. Mr. Hamilton had retreated to Central Fife and the gentlemen gave Mr. Stokes a rousing roar of approval.

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Mrs Rosaleen Sands (right) mother of the new MP, and his sister, Marcella, in Enniskillen yesterday.

## SDP plea 'like South Sea Bubble'

By George Clark  
Political Correspondent

In his most stinging attack so far on the Social Democrats, Mr. Michael Foot, the Labour Party leader, told the annual meeting of his constituency party last night that if any company selling soap or soft drinks asked subscribers to forward cash on the kind of pre-emptive strike adopted by the SDP they would soon be had up for fraud.

He said a leaflet appealing for funds from "the so-called, misnamed Social Democratic party" had come through his letter box this week, and he wondered whether it should be referred to a consumer protection society.

"You are asked to send your £9 to become a founder member if you 'subscribe to the

aims of the SDP', although no reference on this form does it tell you what those aims are, even though there is plenty of space for printing them if the sponsors thought it advisable."

Mr. Foot said that it reminded him of the famous or infamous prospectus of the South Sea Bubble, in which the purpose of the operation was hereafter to be revealed.

The purpose of the "Social Democratic bubble" was also hereafter to be revealed, Mr. Foot said, "once they have collected your cash, once they have made a deal with Mr. David Steel, the Liberal leader; once they have discovered what policy will prove most popular with the public opinion pollsters."

The Social Democrats branded the party policies of others as being unworthy, Mr. Foot added, but they had made a mistake in not making it start themselves.

Speaking yesterday at an SDP meeting in Plymouth, Mrs. Shirley Williams, the former Labour MP and one of the joint leaders of the new party, said that "Social Democrats intended to change the disastrous course of British politics in alliance with the Liberals."

"The next [SDP/Liberal] government will come to power at a time of grave crisis and it will need all the strength, commitment and courage it can command," Mrs. Williams said.

Mr. David Steel, speaking in Liverpool, said that 50,000 Liverpoolians were out of work and it was shameful that Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, on her first visit that day to Merseyside since the general election, had chosen to ignore the city.

Foot added, but they had made a mistake in not making it start themselves.

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## MPs call for change in taxation rules to save works of art

By Kenneth Gosling  
Arts Reporter

A Treasury document known as the "Yellow Peril", dealing with the rules for exempting works of art from capital taxes, should be withdrawn immediately and a new one, relating to works of art and heritage objects, should be drawn up by the Office of Arts and Libraries in consultation with the Treasury.

That is one of several important measures recommended yesterday by the Commons Select Committee on Education, Science and Arts, which has been looking at the tax rules governing the disposal of works of art.

It started the task because of the circumstances of the sale of the Leonardo work known as the Leicester Codex, which was bought by Dr Armand Hammer, and because of the possibility of more works of art in private hands leaving the country.

The committee also recommends that in return for tax exemption an owner should enter details of works of art, in photographs, in the list kept at the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Owners' anonymity would be preserved and scholars would have access to the list and opportunity to see the objects. Every museum and gallery would have automatic access to the list and the chance to borrow objects for exhibition.

"Provided an owner cooperated fully in this system, the committee's report says, there should be no obligation upon him... to hawk his object around to find a museum to display it."

The committee is particularly scathing about the capital tax office and the "Yellow Peril" document.

"It appears", it says, "that those who possess works of art meet with discouraging delays and even obduracy in the capital tax office when they seek to satisfy the conditions concerning exemption from capital taxes. That is particularly so in the case of those owners whose

homes are not suitable for opening to the public."

The adoption of a set of readily understandable rules for the exemption of works of art from capital taxes was of fundamental importance.

The committee recommends that the capital transfer tax concession on the surrender of an object of art should be raised from 25 to 75 per cent. On the question of the surrender of objects in lieu of tax, it deplores the Treasury practice of insisting, when tax is paid in that way rather than in cash, that the transfer has involved public expenditure.

"There should be no attempt to inhibit the already limited purchasing power of secretaries of state, or of the National Heritage Memorial Fund, by notional transfers of this kind made simply for accounting purposes."

An independent review committee should be established, it says, to determine the heritage status and value of an object; and, in the case of private sales, there should be a clearly understood incentive to owners to sell to public institutions.

Arrangements for offering works of art to the Inland Revenue in lieu of tax, it adds, should be clearly laid down by a clause in the Finance Act.

Report welcomed: The report was described by Mr Hugh Leggat, secretary of Heritage in Danger, last night, as revolutionary and likely to lead to many millions of pounds of public expenditure savings if it was implemented (a Staff Reporter writes).

He said the report was a "complete reversal of Treasury thinking." If the Government accepted it, we should rapidly see an enormous improvement in this country in the shape of works of art remaining in houses and being looked after and cared for by private individuals.

Mr Dennis Farr, vice-president of the Museums Association, described the report as a "great advance."

## £50,000 aid to stage black show

By Richard Ford

A theatre company has been awarded £50,000 by the Manpower Services Commission to stage a musical about a reggae band.

Most of the young people taking part in the scheme under the Youth Opportunities Programme will be coloured teenagers from the St Paul's area of Bristol, where a riot took place last year. During the six-month project seven adults will supervise the youngsters, who will receive £22.50p a week.

The musical, called *Freedom City*, will tell the story of a reggae band, its members, and during its production it is hoped that the youngsters will learn not only about acting and dancing, but also skills in using sound equipment.

Rehearsals for the show, which tells the story of a reggae band leader, a Rastafarian, who falls in love with a gospel singer, begin on Monday in the Dockland Settlement premises.

## Doubt cast on value of jury-vetting

From Nicholas Timmins  
Guildford

Jury-vetting and the right of defence counsel to challenge jurors almost certainly makes no difference to the outcome of a trial, a psychological Society was told yesterday.

Dr Philip Sealey, a lecturer in psychology at the London School of Economics, said that research in the 1960s and 1970s, which set through complete tape recordings of trials showed that neither age, sex, class, personality differences nor educational attainment made any difference to the verdicts reached by the jury, either when told immediately after hearing the transcript or when their verdicts were formally reached after discussion.

The only slight tendency to bias was that older jurors, over 50, tended to be more lenient.

Dr Sealey told the society's annual conference at Guildford University that it had not been possible to include different racial groups in the study.

## Morris dancers' bells ring in first signs of spring

The outdoor folk dance seasons are about to begin. The first signs of spring bring out the morris dancers, with their flower-decked hats, white handkerchiefs, bells and herb-patterned staves, performing on village greens and at annual fetes throughout the country.

But folk dancing and its accompanying music is by no means a purely seasonal activity and in recent years has undergone a great revival.

Folk dancing is very much a participation pursuit, while the other part of the scene, folk song, is more of an entertainment. The dancing side of it has, for the initiated, its own terms like "den" and "drag" items: dances that are designed to attract an audience, which is then drawn in to participate.

Much of the interest is generated by the English Folk Dance and Song Society, which through its four regional offices has affiliated to it about 700 clubs and a membership of more than 10,500.

## Life and leisure Cyril Bainbridge

There are also about 150 school clubs, an important aspect of the society's work, backed up by grants from local education authorities.

Most clubs meet fortnightly and the society, besides its own activities, provides callers and bands, seldom named ensembles like the Leather Fiddle Band or the Old Pull and Push Band, for outside organisations arranging barn dances and other folk activities.

The folk movement exists in many guises. The currently named Bacup Britannia Cocker is a team of traditional professional male morris dancers that performs locally at Easter and other times. The coconuts of the title are cotton bobbins.

## 'Spectator' to pay big libel damages to Irish author

By David Nicholson-Lord

The *Spectator* magazine yesterday apologised in the High Court in a libel action brought against it by Mr Constantine FitzGibbon, the Irish author and journalist, and agreed to pay a "substantial" sum in damages and costs.

The action arose over an article by Mr Geoffrey Wheatcroft in the magazine in December, 1979, written in response to a portrait by Mr FitzGibbon of Mr Charles Haughey, the Irish Prime Minister, which appeared in *The Times* the previous week.

Mr David Eady, for Mr FitzGibbon, said the *Spectator* article caused his client "great offence and embarrassment". It had suggested that Mr FitzGibbon's "treatment of Mr Haughey" was "unbiased because the article alleged, a tax exemption scheme for

creative writers introduced by the Haughey Government had been suggested by Mr FitzGibbon."

Eady said the magazine accepted that Mr FitzGibbon had not proposed the scheme and did not benefit from it personally. In the light of the apology, Mr FitzGibbon regarded his reputation as vindicated.

Mr Richard Walker, for the *Spectator*, apologised for the "embarrassment and distress" the article had unintentionally caused. It had not been intended to reflect on Mr FitzGibbon's objectivity or integrity.

Mr Walker said the defendants accepted that there was no question of Mr FitzGibbon's "treatment of Mr Haughey" being "unbiased" or "unbiased because the article alleged, a tax exemption scheme for

## Premier of Finland wins power struggle

From Olli Kivinen  
Helsinki, April 10

Mr Mauno Koivisto, the Finnish Prime Minister, has emerged as the clear winner in an unusual power contest in which he forced the hand of his own Social Democratic Party as well as other parties in his coalition Government.

Mr Koivisto also came up against Finland's patriarchal President Urho Kekkonen. This is the first time that a politician has increased his popularity by opposing President Kekkonen.

The President, who will be 81 in September, has been in office for 25 years and has been the undisputed leader of the country. He is known to deal with blows against any one opposing him, and the Finns are now waiting to see how he will deal with Mr Koivisto.

Both Mr Koivisto's own Social Democratic Party's leadership and the non-socialist Centre Party wanted to replace him.

The nominal excuse was found in the social legislation needed to complete this year's general wages and prices agreement. The third coalition partner, the Communists, could not accept all of this legislation in the Middle East and the Centre Party said there must be unanimity.

The crisis came to a head at the end of last week when Mr Arne Saarinen, the Communist Party Chairman, reported talks with President Kekkonen that the President considered the Prime Minister should be replaced. Mr Saarinen added that relations between the President and the Prime Minister had become very bad.

After this it was generally expected that the Koivisto coalition was finished, but the Prime Minister caused a sensation on Monday by saying that only Parliament could dismiss the Prime Minister. He added that the Communists could demonstrate their disagreement with some of the legislation without breaking up the coalition.

During this week the coalition parties found their hands forced by Mr Koivisto's determination and the quarrel was quietly patched up today.

Mr Saarinen said last night that he had not wanted to bring down Mr Koivisto or his coalition but that "certain circles" especially in the Centre Party, had convinced the President that the Prime Minister should be changed.

Mr Koivisto has achieved widespread popularity, both among his own Social Democrats and in other parties. He is now the clear favourite to succeed President Kekkonen in 1984.

His popularity is based on his work as the Governor of the Bank of Finland and his personal, straightforward behaviour. His opponents say he is not a very effective leader, but this has not damaged him at all. On the contrary, his slow moving, calm leadership has won over most Finns.

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## Give priority to economy, Mr Brezhnev says

From Desha Trevisan  
Prague, April 10

President Brezhnev urged the Soviet bloc countries to give priority to improving their economic performance before he left Prague today. He had been attending the Czechoslovak Communist Party congress which ended with the election of Dr Gustav Husak as party secretary.

Predictably, there were no changes at the top, with all 11 members of the old Presidium retaining their posts but as an additional member was elected. He is Mr Milos Jakes who will take overall charge of agriculture. Great importance is

attached to agriculture with a 10 per cent rise in output planned for the next five years.

During the Polish turmoil Czechoslovakia has provided a topical analogy as well as being cited as an example of how the danger faced in 1968 was overcome, how the party's leading role was rescued and economic benefits were reaped from the close alliance with the Soviet Union.

In fact, the Soviet Union had poured money into the Czechoslovak economy since 1968, mainly through providing advantageous prices for energy and raw materials. The result is that Czechoslovakia is now

more closely integrated with the Soviet Union.

The Czechoslovakians today enjoy the highest living standards in the Soviet bloc, but this situation is now ending and the prospects for the next five years are more worrying. Economic targets are more modest with the rise in industrial production planned at less than 4 per cent annually.

The emphasis of the new five-year plan is on quality rather than quantity, more cautious investment and increased reliance on local resources.

This will be achieved through increased discipline in savings

and improvements rather than reform, which is a word that has been dropped from Czechoslovak political thinking.

Mr Brezhnev, who met the Czechoslovak Presidium members last night, underlined the need to improve economic efficiency and management. A new Soviet bloc economic summit is in the offing although this may wait until the Polish Government does something about its own economy.

The Polish crisis is already having an adverse effect on allies, especially on the neighbouring countries, which have had to reduce imports from Poland because the Poles have

been unable to provide them with the same time they have been called upon to increase their exports to Poland.

At the close of the Czechoslovak party congress Dr Husak paid tribute to Mr Brezhnev whose presence, he said, had provided a great inspiration. He urged unity among the Socialist countries in which, he said, "lies our strength."

Poland's present situation obviously was discussed although not in public. It is now clear that relations with other East European capitals there is growing apprehension over the situation.



Pointed statement: Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, telling journalists there is only time for one more question to Mr Alexander Haig, his American counterpart, at an impromptu press conference in London yesterday.

## Importance attached to diplomatic experience

## Mr Haig welcomes British role in Mid-East

By Louis Heron

It is understood that Mr Alexander Haig, the American Secretary of State who yesterday met the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary, would prefer a larger British presence in the Middle East, but it meant that some British troops would have to be withdrawn from Western Europe.

No official confirmation was available, but apparently Mr Haig believes that the British experience in the Middle East is invaluable. He apparently attached as much if not more importance to British diplomacy as to a military commitment.

Mr Haig, who expressed himself well content with his conversations with Mrs Margaret Thatcher and Lord Carrington, said that they had discussed his recent tour of the Middle East and Spain as well as the Prime Minister's coming visit to the Gulf states and the Afghan and Palestinian crises. By all accounts, his hosts were also well pleased. Mr Haig may have been Supreme Allied

Commander, Europe, but yesterday he was more the diplomat than the soldier.

Reported allied differences, such as the separate American and European approaches to the Middle East, were brushed aside. The so-called European initiative was seen merely as a point of departure.

After Mr Haig's talks with the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary, and his earlier conversations with Dutch, French and West German ministers in Washington, the Americans and their European allies were seen to be mutually comfortable on this issue.

One explanation for this would appear to be the emerging pragmatic approach of President Reagan and Mr Haig. As a consequence, the early misunderstandings were said to have been resolved. Misunderstandings about the location of the Rapid Deployment Force, which a Washington source said was necessary if the Gulf states are to withstand the perceived Soviet threat, is said to

have been reduced as a result of Mr Haig's Middle East tour.

In this instance, Mr Haig's military experience was of some importance. The United States was apparently now talking only of facilities, including the stocking of weapons, and not bases in the Middle East.

A larger naval presence was envisaged. The Rapid Deployment Force could well be based in the United States although past experience—and in this instance the 1958 Lebanese landings—was mentioned—suggested that troops should have some knowledge of local conditions.

Reporters rebuffed: Mr Haig was unable to elaborate on a brief statement to journalists waiting outside the Foreign Office because Lord Carrington interrupted the proceedings. Mr Haig described the London talks as "thorough" in the style of his very unique relationship between Great Britain and the United States.

whether he would now want to involve the PLO. Before he could answer, Lord Carrington interjected: "Unless you (the journalists) let us get on, we shan't get the rest of the agenda through."

The brevity of the pavement press conference surprised the Americans present. Mr Haig's aides had said it would last between five and 10 minutes.

It was the second time in a week that a British minister has cut off an individual press conference in midstream to prevent a visiting American minister from publicly expressing his views.

On Monday Mr John Nott, the Defence Secretary, cut off a similar press conference when Mr Caspar Weinberger, his American counterpart, was about to answer a question. Before Lord Carrington's interruption, Mr Haig described the London talks as "thorough" in the style of his very unique relationship between Great Britain and the United States.

## Control of anti-matter is achieved by scientists

Geneva, April 10.—European physicists reported today that they had collided anti-matter with normal matter for the first time. The European Centre for Nuclear Research, whose experimental site straddles the Swiss-French border near Geneva, said the achievement constituted "the opening of a new window" on the basic structure of the universe.

Experiments with anti-matter, mirror particles of normal matter, have been almost impossible until now because anti-matter tends to go out of existence as soon as it comes into contact with matter itself, the scientists announced.

The 12-nation research organisation recently developed a technique to obtain and store dense beams of anti-protons, the anti-particles of the proton, which is the nucleus of the hydrogen atom. One way was the scientists accelerated anti-protons to collide with a proton beam in intersecting experimental tunnels known as storage rings.

The data gathered over several days by scientists monitoring the experiment was being analyzed.—Reuter.

Smallest particles: The simplest substances in the universe, mainly atoms and molecules, are the family of elementary particles (Pearce Wright, Science Editor writes). They are believed to be the ultimate indivisible fragments of matter, without any internal structure, and without any detectable shape or size.

It is the search for these fundamental building blocks from which all objects are made that is involved in this piece of research.

The smallest elementary particles known so far are divided into two classes; leptons, which include the electron; and the quarks, which are the constituents of the proton, the neutron and many related particles.

The only way of discovering things like quarks is to cause violent collisions between, say, an electron and proton.

The clever trick reported by the Centre is that the anti-proton has actually been stored and then used in one of these experiments involving violent collision.

## Tunisian leader ready to allow new parties

Tunis, April 10.—President Habib Bourguiba of Tunisia today indicated readiness to accept a multi-party system after 25 years of one-party government.

Opening a special congress of the ruling Destourian Socialist Party (PSD), which he founded under French colonial rule, the President said he would not object if other political movements emerged beside the PSD.

They would have to prove they were representative; comply with the constitution; preserve the nation's gains; and reject fanaticism, violence and ideological or material dependence on foreign powers.

This was regarded as excluding Muslim fundamentalists who have been increasingly active in the last couple of years, and the Communist Party, which is banned.

He paid special tribute to Mr Muhammad Mzali, the Prime Minister, for paving the way towards more democracy. Mr Mzali has followed a liberal line since he succeeded Mr Hedi Nouira in April last year.—Reuter.

## Astrology triumphs over seismology, Chinese claim

From Richard Hughes  
Hongkong, April 10

The earthquake that yesterday struck Haifeng county, about 30 miles north-east of Hongkong, was only minor and caused no damage or casualties, a Chinese local Communist Party spokesman said.

The first tremor at 9 am was between three and 10 seconds long and registered between 2.5 and 4.0 on the Richter scale of 10. Several hours later there were two minor tremors of 3.2 and 3.5. The first shock caused tremors in Hongkong.

"The situation is well under control and there have been no disturbances or looting", Hongkong authorities were told.

"All of the 5,000 Hongkongers who fled to Hongkong in fear of the earthquake have now returned. Please assure the people of Hongkong that they will not be fleeing again."

People from the Guangdong region of China fled to Hongkong recently after it was rumoured that an earthquake would strike.

Despite the Chinese assurances, Hongkong security forces were on full alert last night.

## Hongkong to London rail trip gets up steam

From Our Correspondent  
Hongkong, April 10

London will welcome 21 visitors from Hongkong in the first month arriving by train via China, Mongolia, the Soviet Union and Poland after a 38-day journey.

Departing from Hongkong on April 26, it will be the first of nine such train trips this year and will become a regular weekly service next year. Mr Gerald Afield, the Hongkong director of a London-based tour operator, announced the service yesterday.

Most of the passengers who have booked are Americans, Australians and Europeans, with some Hongkong residents. The fare costs \$HK23,000 (£1,980) and the passengers will stop at 45 great cities, with an unbroken nine-night rattle through Siberia.

"I think people are fed up with going everywhere by air," Mr Afield said.

## General Prem fails to capitalize on failure of Thai coup

From David Watts  
Bangkok, April 10

General Prem Tinsulanonda came out of his first post-coup Cabinet meeting early this week and advised Thais to forget about the army upheaval that came close to destroying the Government.

But even in coup-prone Thailand last week's events were unique. If Thais were looking for anything from their Prime Minister, they were not expecting comfortable words but decisive action to meet the army's complaints which prompted the uprising by the "Young Turks".

There is little indication of the either in the form of restructuring the Cabinet or on the economic front.

The introduction of unacceptable forces in the Cabinet, failure to meet economic problems, indecision and drift in the leadership were at the heart of the grievances felt by the young colonels who had made a coup for a role for royalty and the King over his political influence spuriously. "There is no magic

## News analysis

If future planners of coups are to draw any lessons from this experience, the first is that the Royal Family must be isolated quickly from the Prime Minister and the second is that the old adage—whichever holds Bangkok rules—Thailand is no longer true.

Speed of communication and transport has robbed the capital of its overriding position. Support from the countryside, where the majority of the population lives, is essential to maintain power in Bangkok, not least because of food supplies.

With dozens of civilian and military figures, some of them former close aides of General Prem, held for questioning, Thailand is in an uncertain mood.

General Prem appears to have done nothing to tackle the problem of the presence in his Cabinet of an extreme right-wing General Sudsakorn Hasting, leader of the Red Cross pressure group. It has proved unpopular appointment, since General Sudsakorn played a leading role in the bloody suppression of the 1976 student movement in Bangkok.

The young colonels object to General Sudsakorn's inclusion in the Cabinet, which was due to political pressure.

General Sudsakorn seems to have taken an equivocal role during the coup. He made no statements backing the "Revolutionary Party", but he did not travel to Korea in the New Year, where General Prem took refuge with the "King" to end his Prime Minister's abortive coup last week (Reuter reports from Bangkok).

For Colonel Prachak, however, this will almost certainly be the end of the road. He is accused of Police filed charges today ranging from treason to creating unrest among policemen, senior civil servants and dismissed military officers.

Caused of taking part in the abortive coup last week (Reuter reports from Bangkok).

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Caused of taking part in the abortive coup last week (Reuter reports from Bangkok).

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محمد انور الرحيل



Only barren argument may lie ahead

## Security conference adjourns in Madrid with no hope of accord

From Richard Wing

Madrid, April 10

The European security review conference—the follow-up to the Helsinki Agreements—was adjourned today for a three-day Easter break with no sign of reaching an agreement even when it resumes.

With no end to the 35-nation conference remotely in sight after seven months of argument, the United States and the Soviet Union returned at today's session to the barren verbal clashes which often characterized the pre-Christmas debates.

The United States insisted at the conference must put greater respect for human rights into its concluding document. After Mr Max Kampel, the American delegate, detailed the continuing treatment of fighters in the Soviet

Union which has gone on throughout the conference here, Russia brought up alleged discriminatory treatment in the United States of minority groups.

Mr Leonid Ilyichov, the Soviet delegate, also protested today about what he labelled "destructive remarks" made earlier this week when the British delegate criticized Moscow's continuing abuse of human rights and its dilatory tactics over winding up the Madrid meeting.

The United States also rejected today a Soviet move evidently designed to permit any conference on disarmament and confidence-building measures, agreed by the present meeting in Madrid, to decide on an eventual second stage for itself. According to the Soviet plan, it would have powers to do this without first submitting

the results of its first stage for review by the follow-up conference which will succeed the Madrid meeting.

Not only the United States but also Western and neutral countries at the Madrid meeting have indicated firm opposition to this attempt to separate the two main elements of the so-called Helsinki process—security and human rights.

What preoccupies many Western delegates as they prepare to go home to their capitals, is whether they are going to return to the same futile debates on May 5. Many of these diplomats are now, privately, utterly sceptical of any worthwhile results emerging in Madrid. But they realize that their governments are not prepared to incur responsibility for walking out on the Helsinki process.

Mr Jerry Verner, the United States spokesman, put this feeling on the record, admitting to reporters today: "We are in a sense prisoners of our own process."

At a time-consuming press conference Mr Ilyichov made it clear that the Soviet Union is determined to hang on after the Easter break for its so-called "positive results" just as long as it wishes.

These results, he insisted, must include an "appropriate" reply by the West to President Brezhnev's proposal to extend the area of confidence-building measures to include all Soviet territory in Europe. Everyone at the conference knows there has been no movement on this point by either side for the past month.

## Russia seeks military talks

Vienna, April 10.—Mr Nikolai Khovov, the Soviet Prime Minister, today called on the Madrid security conference to initiate a new conference on a military aspects of détente.

Ending his first official visit to the West, he agreed in a statement with Dr Bruno Kreisky, the Austrian Chancellor, that progress in the dead-end Vienna East-West troop reduction talks was "urgently necessary".

Mr Khovov later left by air for Moscow.

The joint statement did not mention a Kremlin call for a

moratorium on medium-range missiles in Europe which the Prime Minister repeated in his talks here this week.

Nor did it bring up possible Soviet participation in a North-South conference in October of leaders from industrialized and developing countries, of which Dr Kreisky is co-sponsor with President José Lopez Portillo, of Mexico.

The Chancellor said on Wednesday that he had mentioned the conference to Mr Khovov, who was not totally negative about it, but that an answer from Moscow might still take some time.—Reuter.

## Church talks hindered by passport

By Ray Kennedy

Manassasburg, April 10

The prospects of a further Cabinet delegation and which leaders have receded rapidly following the statement by Mr Pieter Botha, the Prime Minister, that the passport of Desmond Tutu, the Anglican Secretary-General of the South African Council of Churches (SACC) will definitely be withdrawn.

The SACC represents most of the country's churches apart from the Dutch Reformed Church and the Roman Catholic Church which has only a nominal status.

Last year a Cabinet delegation headed by Mr Botha held talks with the SACC on ways to means to restructure apartheid. The meeting was inconclusive. The SACC, representing the mass of black, under-privileged people in South Africa, called for the total ending of the pass laws and government's programme of removals of blacks from areas to the Bantustans.

Mr Botha replied by inviting church leaders to visit the here border area of South Africa (the Ciskei) where a South African troops are fighting guerrillas.

The church leaders saw this as a ploy to involve them in a South African action that they consider to be an apartheid war and, in addition, to protect minority rights when a man at the back of the church was shouting "crash". This is not the sort of language that South

## One word transforms Botha election rally

From Our Correspondent

Cape Town, April 10

A four-letter word shouted from the back of the hall transformed a rather dull election meeting, addressed by Mr Pieter Botha, the South African Prime Minister, into a rumbustious affair during which the Prime Minister was heckled by both rightists and left-wingers.

Mr Botha came to Cape Town last night to make his main public address of the election campaign in the Cape Province. The venue was the Good Hope Centre, a huge modern auditorium which is normally used for boxing tournaments and indoor tennis matches.

The hall can hold a capacity crowd of 8,000. Mr Botha drew only about 2,000, which most observers felt was a good turnout (certainly far better than any other party leader could achieve) although if it had been his predecessor, Mr John Vorster or the late Dr Hendrik Verwoerd there would not have been an empty seat in the place.

Initially the audience was attentive but showed little sign of enthusiasm either for the Prime Minister or what he had to say. They clapped politely when he arrived and applauded when he finished, but his party were presented with carnations by a group of pretty girls wearing National Party sashes.

Then came the interjection. Mr Botha was just saying that his Government was a government of the people and for the people when a man at the back yelled "crash". This is not the sort of language that South

African Prime Ministers are accustomed to at election meetings and Mr Botha, appearing somewhat taken aback, said: "I beg your pardon." The word was repeated, this time even louder.

Although the interjection brought bluster to the cheeks of some of the audience, it certainly set the meeting alight. Mr Botha was transformed from a rather pedestrian speaker into a fiery orator, and the party faithful responded with cheers and laughter.

The Prime Minister was frequently applauded when he said South Africa was one of the best countries in the Western world to live in, that inflation was a problem of prosperity, that the Government would not allow its internal policy to be dictated from outside.

He also said South Africa had more freedom of religion and speech, and a more independent judiciary than many Western countries.

Some of the most enthusiastic applause was produced by Mr Botha's reference to South Africa's security legislation. It was no more severe, he maintained, than legislation in Northern Ireland, Holland or Britain's Prevention of Terrorism Act. "We don't have security measures for decent-minded, reasonable people," he declared, wagging his finger menacingly at the audience, "but for the underlings of our sublimity." He added to thunderous applause: "We want to stamp out radicalism, communism and subversion."

## Opinion poll war over Giscard chances

From Charles Hargrove

Paris, April 10

A war of opinion polls has broken out between Giscardians and Gaullists over the two latest polls—in Paris-Match, and the weekly VSD—which have produced quite contradictory results.

These polls have started off a wider controversy about whether such public opinion soundings are doctored to suit the one or the other candidate. And this controversy is linked with complaints against the managers of television and radio programmes, who for some time have been accused by the Gaullists, the Left and the minor presidential candidates of partiality in favour of M Giscard d'Estaing.

Le Figaro today gives the controversy about the polls as a reason for not publishing its usual weekly Sofres poll in its magazine tomorrow. But another reason appears to be that this latest poll shows M Giscard d'Estaing slipping two points in the past week to a forecast score of 25 per cent in the first ballot. M Mitterrand holds his ground with 24 per cent; and both M Marchais and M Chirac gain one per cent, scoring 17.5 and 17 per cent respectively. The latest unpublished poll does not give estimates for the second ballot.

The Paris-Match poll shows M Giscard d'Estaing winning by 48 per cent to M Mitterrand's 48 per cent in the second ballot, while the VSD poll has M Mitterrand winning by 52.5 per cent against 47.5 to M Giscard d'Estaing.

Mr Michel Pinton, the general delegate of the Giscardian UDF has called on the official commission on polls to check the validity of the VSD poll, on the ground that it is the first to give such a score to the Socialist candidate. But his move has drawn an ironical remark from M Jacques Toubon, the secretary-general of the support committee for M Chirac: "For M Pinton to say 'the good polls are those with results favourable to M Giscard d'Estaing' is to liquidate those which favour his opponents."

The Socialists have decided to file an action with the Constitutional Council against the "abuse of power by the radio and television in the service of the President-candidate."



Israeli troops leaving their helicopter after the Lebanon raid.

## Israel hits Lebanon on three fronts

From Tawfik Mishlawi

Beirut, April 10

As a fragile ceasefire between Syrian peacekeeping troops and Lebanese right-wing Christians held for the second straight day despite minor violations, Israeli warplanes today strafed Palestinian guerrilla targets in southern Lebanon, killing at least four people and wounding 15 others.

An overnight Israeli attack on Palestinian and Lebanese leftist positions was reported to have left between 10 and 15 Palestinian guerrillas dead. A Palestinian spokesman said the attackers clashed with the combined forces of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and its Lebanese leftist militia

allies in the region of Nabatiya, the main guerrilla stronghold in southern Lebanon.

The attack was described as the biggest for several months. An Israeli military spokesman said two Israeli soldiers were wounded, one of whom died hours later. The spokesman said that between 10 and 15 Palestinians were killed in the operation, which was backed by a barrage of fire from Israeli gunboats off the Lebanese coast.

A PLO spokesman in Beirut said the Israeli "airborne" attack confirmed Palestinian information that the Israelis, in collaboration with the Lebanese right-wing Christians in the north were planning a "pincer movement" to liquidate the Palestinian guerrilla movement.

The raids last night and today came after a bomb attack earlier this week against an Israeli restaurant in Jerusalem in which an Arab waiter was killed and two Israelis were

wounded. The Palestinian guerrillas, in a communiqué in Damascus, claimed responsibility for the operation.

Israeli Phantom fighter aircraft today raided Palestinian bases in Damour and Dalhamia, about 10 miles south of Beirut. Lebanese police sources said at least four people were killed and about 15 others wounded.

At around midday, there was another air raid on the village of Jieh and the nearby village of Saadiyat on the main Beirut Sidon highway. The number of casualties in this raid was not known.

Tanks blown up: Paratroops made one of Israel's deepest raids inside Lebanon last night and reported that they destroyed a Palestinian guerrilla base only three miles from an area occupied by a Syrian peacekeeping force.

The Israelis said they inflicted casualties, blew up tanks and ammunition dumps and flew home by helicopter without encountering the Syrians.

## Americans heckle Reagan envoy at Dar es Salaam

Dar es Salaam, April 10.—Mr Chester Crocker, the American

Secretary of State-designate for African affairs, who is on a 10-nation tour of Southern Africa was greeted by an American demonstration when he arrived at the airport here today from Kenya.

About a dozen expatriates held banners which read: "Back UN sanctions—force South Africa out of Namibia", "Recognize Angola", "Tanzania has expressed mixed feelings about the League of the ruling Chama Cha Mapinduzi Party condemned the Reagan Administration's Africa policy and said Mr Crocker could not be regarded as a friend of the continent."

However, UPI, the party newspaper, published a leading article welcoming the visit and expressing hopes that it will help adjust the Washington stand on African issues.

## Mme Sagan to appeal in plagiarism case

From Our Own Correspondent

Paris, April 10

Françoise Sagan has decided to appeal against the verdict of a Paris court earlier this week which found her last novel *Le chien couchant* had plagiarized the short story by Jean Hougron entitled *Les petites femmes*. Her publisher, Flammarion, also has decided to appeal.

Mme Sagan said on the radio that she found the court decision which required all copies of her novel for sale or in stock to be destroyed "a little excessive". She had only borrowed the decor from the work of M Hougron.

She told *Le Quotidien de Paris* today: "If Jean Hougron was scandalized by the novel in which I used as inspiration his short story *Les petites femmes*, his blood circulation is particularly slow. The book was published in September. His court action dates from December."

## Nations pledge \$560m aid for African refugees

From Our Correspondent

Geneva, April 10

The 85-nation conference on assistance to refugees in Africa has produced solid evidence of a common determination to save the continent from further famine and political disintegration in the 1980s.

As the two-day meeting ended tonight, pledges from governments totalled about \$560m (about £254m) for relief priorities in the next two years.

Approximately 30 to 40 per cent of this total—up to \$250m—is described by United Nations officials as "new" money, as distinct from funds allotted in advance but as yet unused.

This compares with the \$190m donated through United Nations agencies in 1979 for Indo-China refugees, particularly "boat people" and \$150m last year for Cambodia.

With a \$30m cash contribution today, Saudi Arabia took second place behind the United States, whose delegate, Mrs Jean Kirkpatrick, yesterday promised \$285m.

Mr James Grant, executive director of UNICEF, the United Nations children's fund, underlined today that the refugees, half of them children, were perhaps 25 per cent of afflicted peoples urgently needing assistance in nine countries alone.

In addition, tens of millions were living in a permanent state of "silent emergency" affected by absolute poverty and gross underdevelopment even as to the most basic services of health, nutrition, water supply and rudimentary education.

## Inflation may take some gilt off the gingerbread in Zimbabwe

By Nicholas Ashford, The Times Southern Africa

correspondent, looks at Zimbabwe's booming economy in his sixth and concluding article about the country a year after independence.

Light which blazes throughout the night in Salisbury's industrial zone bear testimony to the economic boom in Zimbabwe which has enjoyed since the country became independent.

A year ago most Zimbabwean factories were working at below capacity and most were closed each night. They are working round the clock in an attempt to keep pace with demand.

During the first year of independence Zimbabwe's economy has, in the words of Edward Cross, a prominent economist and head of the country's Marketing Board, taken off like a rocket.

The economic growth last year is estimated at 8 per cent, but Mr Cross reckons it to be as high as 10 per cent.

The ending of the guerrilla war and the lifting of sanctions were two important contributory factors to this boom. Even more important has been the massive increase in tourism resulting from the introduction of a minimum 10 per cent reduction of prices on some basic commodities, the action in sales tax and the reduction of tens of thousands of people (such as the guerrillas) from the economy. Domestic consumption last year grew by over 40 per cent.

However, some businessmen and bankers are more sceptical about the country's growth prospects. A recent Standard Bank report commented: "The build-up of pressures on dwindling resources, in conditions of an unprecedented increase in money supply, slackening financial discipline and poorer results in very high inflation (probably over 20 per cent) and balance of payments difficulties. These circumstances could lead to some 4 per cent real growth of the maximum attainable given continued internal stability."

There are a number of important constraints on growth in the country. One is that many industries are already running at maximum capacity and are unable, largely due to foreign exchange shortages, to expand. Soaring consumption has already produced shortages in a number of sectors.

Another constraint is the shortage of skilled manpower. Although whites are not leaving the country in as large numbers as had been feared,

there has nevertheless been an important drain of skills since independence. Although Zimbabwe is more fortunate than many other African countries in the number of skilled blacks in employment, there are not nearly enough of them to meet the needs of an expanding economy.

A third constraint is transport. There is a severe shortage of lorries because during the past few years almost all the vehicles either built in Zimbabwe or imported were for use in the war. The railways are already running at maximum capacity yet are unable to handle a quarter of the traffic which is on offer.

There are also fiscal reasons why some of the gilt may be coming off the gingerbread. The money supply has increased by about 40 per cent and this has given the inflation rate, which has traditionally remained in single figures, a hefty push upwards.

The current account balance of payments, which showed a healthy surplus last year, has now moved sharply into deficit and is likely to remain there as the level of imports continues to outstrip exports.

But perhaps the most disturbing factor is the continuing large budgetary deficit. In the last budget the deficit was estimated at around £360m, which was equivalent to about one-third of budgetary expenditure, about the same as the previous two or three years.

However, the Government's plans to increase spending on health and social services, plus the continuing high level of defence expend-

iture seem certain to increase this deficit.

Despite these problems, however, the country's economic picture seems considerably brighter than in many other African countries or in the recession-hit West.

The agricultural sector is undergoing an unprecedented boom led by a doubling of the country's maize output. The manufacturing sector will remain buoyant and there should be some improvement in the value of mineral production.

According to the White Paper *Growth with Equity* the total investment envisaged during the period of the three-year transition, 1981/82-1983/84 is estimated at £2,600m, of which half will come from the private sector.

The plan, which emphasises the need to replace "imperialist exploitation" with the establishment of a "socialist, egalitarian and democratic society", places stress on rural development, greater equity in income and wealth distribution and greater participation in the economy by Zimbabwean nationals.

According to Mr Brian Gubb, president of the Associated Chambers of Commerce of Zimbabwe, businessmen have been unsettled by the socialist rhetoric used in the White Paper. "The White Paper sent a shiver through the private sector," he said.

However, he conceded that the interpretation of the document during discussions with Government officials was "more reassuring".

The new development plan is not due to be published until the middle of the year. Before then the Riddell Commission will be bringing out its recommendations on wages and prices. Between these two documents should indicate just how socialist Zimbabwe is going to be.

## Unican at Boots—that's good news twice over!



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for the Special Touch



# Saturday Review

In August, 1979, J. G. Farrell was drowned off the coast of Cork. He left behind him an unfinished novel, *The Hill Station*, and a travel diary which he kept during a visit to India in 1971.

John Spurling recalls the man and, below, J. G. Farrell visits the banks of the River Ganges

## Jim Farrell

a memoir by  
John Spurling

I first met Jim Farrell in the winter of 1962-63 when he and I were both new to London and both living in garrets. At least mine was a genuine garret, at the top of a Baywater tenement in what was then called Ruckmanland, but Jim's was a conservatory in Notting Hill Gate. He always called it a greenhouse and it reappeared as such in his third novel, *A Girl in the Head*, some years later. By the time that was published we were both somewhat more pleasantly situated, facing each other across a communal garden on Notting Hill.

*Troubles* — it won the Faber Memorial Prize and was praised by several critics, notably Elizabeth Bowen — he moved to a small flat between Harrods and the V & A. I still saw a good deal of him, but only by appointment, as it were, mainly for supper at his flat or mine, instead of casually.

The friend through whom I met Jim had been his contemporary at Brasenose College, Oxford, where they were both rugby players. It was there, in his first year as an undergraduate, that, immediately after a game of rugby, Jim was suddenly taken ill with polio and removed to an iron lung.

The myth grew up, partly promoted by Jim himself, that he had entered the lung as a stalwart, "hearty" and emerged as a white-haired, emaciated novelist. It was not quite so. He had been, certainly, a fine games player at Rossall, but the master responsible for the school magazine recalled that Jim could have filled it all by himself, "but we had to let the others have a look in".

G. M. Arthurson, who taught French at Rossall, remembers Jim as a boy who got on with everybody but was always slightly apart, not one of a pack. The extraordinary head of white hair, set off by black eyebrows, was naturally the first thing anyone noticed, but it took me some time to observe, by the way he put on his overcoat, that the polio had left any other traces.

Indeed when I first read his second novel, *The Lung*, published in 1965, a partly farcical version of his own experiences in hospital, I assumed that the account of the central character's dismal physical condition was as heightened as the rest.

Some years later when he talked about what had happened to him, I realized that it wasn't. The way *The Lung* transformed basic reality into comic fantasy was to become the essence, the Farrellian trademark, of all his later work.

Jim visited India (where his parents lived for some years before he was born) at the beginning of 1971, soon after the publication of *Troubles*. He was already getting to work on his next novel, whose basic reality was to be the *Siege of Lucknow*. Its working title was *Difficulties*, an ironic indication that even in those early stages he saw the book as linked to *Troubles*, not in any obvious sequential way, since none of the characters overlap and the *Siege of Lucknow* happened 63 years before the events of *Troubles*, but as a further exploration of the nature and behaviour of the British colonial middle classes when caught with their backs to the wall.

Jim took various introductions to India, including one from me to my great-uncle. My great-uncle had retired from the Indian Civil Service just before independence and settled, since his whole adult life had been spent in India, on a farm near Dehra Dun, where, as Jim noted

in his *Indian Diary*, he led a fairly feudal life, returning to England at roughly two-year intervals to see his friends and relations, and to buy a new hat or a pair of shoes. But by 1971 he had grown too old to travel any further than Mussoorie, the nearest hill station.

Jim and my uncle warmed to each other, as I had been sure they would, after some initial shyness over lunch, and both wrote me letters to say so. Jim's account being rather fuller and more dramatic.

... there's a lot going on. Your uncle told me there was a deadly feud between his grandfather and the cook, the former having fertilised the latter's elder daughter with twins ... a plume of smoke rising from the river side was the pyre of his driver's wife who had committed suicide the night before by setting fire to herself after a row with her husband. He took me down to show me the farm ... and on the way we passed his primary school, a score of children in a glade with blackboard and teacher.

Many of the most striking passages in Jim's *Indian Diary* are concerned with funerals. They are written with apparently scrupulous detachment but their force comes from one's constant awareness of the observer and the fact that for all his efforts he is not detached but uneasily poised between laughter and horror. This was how his imagination always worked: if you could break the

mould of habit and look at reality with a fresh eye, it would soon start to grow fantastic.

In all three of his completed historical novels the walled-off complacency of the characters is destroyed by their disastrous circumstances, the underlying reality breaks in and their lives become a surreal nightmare which, in Myles na Gopaleen's phrase, would be tragic were it not so humorous.

Jim returned from India more horrified than amused. To note the contrast between the degrading poverty of the many and the affluence of the few — Jim's introductions had admitted him to one or two rich Indian homes — is a common place for visitors to India, but in his case the visit coincided with and served to hasten a change in his own attitude to the world.

His three early novels, all with contemporary settings, are apolitical. True, the earliest, which was published soon after I met him and which had a French setting — Jim had lived in France before leaving Oxford and settling in London — was a recognisably Cold War novel, turning on the rivalry between a communist newspaper editor and an anti-communist novelist, but its message was essentially "a plague on both your houses" and the politics were more a matter of plot than personal interest.

The plot of *Troubles*, also turns on politics, but the central figure, the Major — shell-shocked in the First World

War, irresistibly sympathetic and self-deprecating in the manner of his author — ends as a victim of the Sinn Féiners only because he is an Englishman and without at any point becoming involved in the political issues. The novel that eventually emerged from the Indian visit — *The Siege of Krishnapur* — was still overtly apolitical, although its grim situation was caused by the Indian Mutiny, there was no attempt to express its causes or to present the besieging sepoys as anything beyond the instruments of fate.

It was as if the fuse lit by the Indian visit took longer to reach its powder keg than the book took to write. *Krishnapur* was published in 1973 and it was only later that year that the explosion happened — still a rather muffled one — in Jim's acceptance speech at the Booker Prize dinner when to everyone's astonishment his modest and humorous man suddenly accused the donors of the prize of exploiting their workers in the West Indies. It was hardly a well chosen moment: after all he still took the prize and spent a large part of it on cases of wine which almost completely filled the bathroom of his tiny flat, and it demonstrated how little thought-out, how confused and instinctive was the change in his outlook.

He came to terms with it more deliberately in the last and most powerful of his historical trilogy, *The Singapore Grip*, devoting much of the book's



J. G. Farrell: a new understanding

long build-up to a detailed expose of the way British businessmen exploited their Malay and Chinese labourers on the rubber estates with no thought for their own profit.

In the three years while he was writing *The Singapore Grip*, Jim became uncharacteristically argumentative and assertive on socio-political topics, but once the book was done he seemed to revert more or less to his old charming, ironical, detached self.

I think it was not that the change had been superficial but rather that he had last assimilated it, adding in the process another layer to his understanding of those people he always wrote about his own people, the blinkered, obstinate, greedy, sometimes well-meaning, sometimes heroic, but always comical British middle classes.

Perhaps in the strength of that new understanding, perhaps to escape from only ever seeing his friends at supper

parties, Jim returned to Ireland, but his family was Irish and he had spent his childhood there. At the time he bought a farmhouse in Cork, close to the set about renovating it, he visited from his new surroundings months later, while from a rock, his latest he somehow fell or was away and, more crippled polio than he ever anybody to know, was as save himself in a heavy sea. He was 44, the first of his second novel about (which he had meant to finish, but he had not) was still in the making. I he was one of the two or three best English novelists generation; I know that him was one of the worst that ever happened to me. © 1981 by John Spurling

## Death's rolling stream

by J. G. Farrell

1 March  
After a night spent fighting off mosquitoes during which I failed to sleep a wink, I was out of bed at six to join the boatload of tourists on the Ganges. The sun was just rising as we went down to the water. Many Hindus splashing away, rubbing themselves with mustard oil to keep out the cold: women, mainly old, bathing in a separate enclosure, equally visible from the water however. They don't seem to mind tourists peering at them. A lot of them are no doubt tourists, or at least visitors, themselves.

The guide tells us that Benares people prefer to go across to the outer bank for privacy. The worshippers cup water in their hands to the rising sun, facing it. The river is completely built up on the west side because the worshippers face east. All the time resonant chanting ... of the name of God ... echoes over the water and the ghats and there is a ringing of bells.

We pass the house of the superintendent of the burning ghat looming over the water: on the cornice are two brightly painted tigers about to pounce, signifying the constant imminence of death. A fire has just been lit on the burning ghat: a woman shrouded in white ... this means, I think, that she is unmarried or a widow ... a woman whose husband is still living wears red. The feet rather awesomely stick out of the pyre about halfway up. The chief mourner has his head shaved and is stripped to the waist, bustling around with a few others. There are great piles of wood waiting for corpses. Later from the bus I saw a couple of peasants carrying what looked like a body into town, on a mattress on their heads.

After the trip on the river (during which a hippy on a houseboat was pointed out to us by the guide and we all stared dutifully at this bizarre creature, who was merely an ordinary-looking girl hanging up some clothes) we walked up through some incredibly narrow streets, past the golden temple and various other temples, the way was crowded with cows and pilgrims and many of these holy men of a commercial frame of mind try to daub tourists with kum-kum and sell them various other things. Later in the morning at the Durga temple a demanding priest ended up and garlanded us all in marigolds. I gave him generously 30 paise.

The guide actually turned out to be a very impressive person: spoke very well about Hinduism when we later visited the Shiva temple at the Hindu University. Going in, the worshippers reached up and rang a bell. Beside a phallic black stone set in oval tapering white marble sat a priest. The stone was decked in flowers and water continually dripped on to it from a brass receptacle to symbolize I'm not sure what — the passing life, the fact that a Hindu's life should be devoted



to God moment by moment?

Three musicians sat and played drums and sang, with ecstatic enthusiasm and good cheer smiling at people going by: they sat on the floor, all of marble, very little decoration but shrouded also to Kail, all black as her name indicates, and another couple, I forget who. Worshippers come up, close their eyes and murmur a prayer and making some sort of devotional sign and an offering to the priest I believe. Great wax beehives had been built on the spire of the temple, shaped like baskets.

In the afternoon we visited the Buddhist temple at Sarnath on the site of the Buddha's first sermon. A great golden Buddha, beside it a little old priest with spectacles sat cross-legged talking in a devotee. Thence to the palace of the Maharajah of Benares: a peeling collection of buildings with some magnificent rooms over the Ganges. Like the Maharajah of Jaipur he has an armoury with a collection of exotic weapons — spear pistols that discharge a shot at the same time as stabbing you. Great knives that by working a spring open up into four blades. Plus the usual caparisons for elephants, howdahs of various descriptions, a plain one for hunting, elaborate ones for other occasions ... together with all the attendant elephant gear — triangular caps to go over the elephant's head, richly embroidered rugs, harnesses and parasols.

There were also torches: a long silver pole with a cup on the end for oil-soaked cotton or a pole with a five-spiked silver disc on the end. Blazing rags were stuck on the spikes. The Maharajah also had lights for different moods: a blue-glassed lamp for sleeping, a green one for waking, etc. and a whole variety of velvet cushions, one to go under each joint, ankle, knee etc. While he slept the

servant stood by to slip cushions under joints if he moved. Also an astrological clock. A great dial several feet across with apertures for moving bands, giving solar time, conjunctions of the planets and so forth, numbers in Hindi.

Above the Maharajah's bed a great embroidered punkah with gold tassels and gilt rope, I think it measured about eight feet by two. In the armoury there were also immensely long flintlock rifles, pistols with several barrels and a dagger attached. Also an enormous odds and ends: ostrich eggs, a marble fireplace inlaid with flowers, cut silk vestments and gilded embroidered caps with feathers, rich carpets, an iron ring with interior spikes, hinged, with a chair attached for securing an elephant who misbehaves. Any number of pieces of carved ivory, flowers, trees and so forth. (My rajah might be sitting in the middle of all this gloomily eating a boiled egg and reading *Blackwood's Magazine*.) Four nailed spikes for throwing on the ground in front of the enemy also. Not to forget chairs made of antlers, tables of rhinoceros feet and something or other made of bear tusks.

Afternoon spent at the burning ghat, after a heavier lunch than I had intended of chicken masala, 'pease' pullao (for some reason they always add an 'e') and 'raita' and nam. I was walking bloatedly back to the hotel when I was hailed by one of a million rickshaw drivers who said he had taken me to the Kwaitry the day before. This decided me to get into his vehicle and head off towards the river. We had a puncture on the way and he transferred me to a colleague's vehicle. My doubts as to how to proceed on some kind of a narrow little alley behind the burning ghat holy men sat. I saw them later eating. While I was watching the fires one of the

cow and an occasional water buffalo (this morning I saw two with their heads locked together — two men had to unjam them) not to mention the usual crowds of people.

The scene at the ghat was a pretty casual one. I sat down on some steps for about an hour watching ... there were about half a dozen pyres going ... mostly in an advanced stage: while I was there a couple of women's corpses in coloured shrouds were brought down on green bamboo stretchers, dunked in the river and parked to wait their turn. There was no waiting or any signs of distress ... a few peasants also sitting on the steps ... I suppose I was ten yards away from the nearest fire ... some of the corpses burning were of paupers and were being burned by men who worked there, who poked away at the fires with bamboo staves, constantly stirring them up and trying to get the unconsumed parts to burn. The outside bits tended to burn least quickly, the feet and the head: a couple of feet stuck out for some time, toes rather played, nails paler than the dark skin (the feet of a not young man I should say) while the middle portion of the body burned, the skin-bones showed very white, the skin having burned off quickly and there being little flesh to carbonize: presently the attendant turned one of the legs over — it was when it went right over against the natural articulation of the joint that the body really stopped being a person for me and became an object.

Soon after the pyre had been lit the chief mourner, dressed in a white dhoti, head shaved, threw sandalwood powder on to the corpse and something else, perhaps some thick paste of some kind. In a narrow little alley behind the burning ghat holy men sat. I saw them later eating. While I was watching the fires one of the

holy men came down to collect embers from some of the more thoroughly reduced fires in a shallow pan: this was to do their cooking on. One of them was heating up a thick round bread of some kind. They picked the pan up with a stick. From time to time (twice anyway) I heard a dull report from one of the half-consumed bodies. Also the white ribs showed plainly for a moment, as the cloth and skin burnt away.

When the bodies were consumed down to small pieces the attendant picked the charred lump, unrecognisable as any particular organ, up with two sticks and manoeuvred it into the river: it went in with a hiss of steam. One of the bodies was consumed down to a couple of pieces the size of (I'm trying to think of a non-edible object: apples, sausages, etc. would indicate) ... of Coca Cola bottles and threw them in: they appeared to sink.

One of the more solid hulks oozed a lot of liquid as it was turned over and the old man tending it bodies having great trouble getting it burned. I left before he had got it finished. When the remnant had been thrown into the river, the mourner got a round jar (earthenware) of water from the river and threw it over the fire, repeating it until it was doused, and then, with it full, throwing it over his shoulder on to the fire, where it smashed rather dramatically.

The chap who told me that corpses came from all over the country, usually by car (rich people) so in the afternoon there would be many fires. I saw a chap later with one on a stretcher (they're tied on and look very insubstantial) on the back of a cycle rickshaw. He also said they came by water, though none died while I was there. He told me that corpses of babies, holy men, people who died of snake bite or

smallpox are not burned but are taken out, tied to a stone and sunk in the river. There wasn't the slightest trace of ceremony about the scene (apart from the various rituals that were followed): three or four wretched crippled dogs lay about basking in the sun, peasants sat around hugging their knees: cows wandered up and down the steps browsing on odds and ends of vegetable matter that they found — paper, cardboard — and one of them even inspected one of the waiting corpses (but found nothing to eat) on which sparrows played too. One man with his son seemed a bit uncertain how to go about it and someone standing by shouted instructions — it was all very natural and matter-of-fact.

Nobody paid any attention to me, fortunately. Boats sailed by, including a vociferous wedding-party in a large boat being propelled by a number of oars sprouting from odd parts — for a while this overloaded vessel was going round in a circle on its own axis while music played merrily. Smoke sometimes blew in our eyes and for a while it was quite warm, particularly as the steps against which I was sitting were in the sun. There were no women present.

Some of the larger pieces of body must drift around just beside the bank as not much effort was made to burn them far in: there were several boats moored in the way as well. All this, which sounded distinctly gruesome to me yesterday when someone described it to me, now doesn't seem at all so I think this is because a dead body being burned is so completely an object; which is consumed so quickly (they say three to four hours but I guess any recognisable quality: very quickly) that one sees people, bodies and so on in an completely different light. It all

seems extremely natural in some odd way. Glimpsed in the streets of Benares, a pavement dentist with an array of pliers and pinners spread out on a dirty cloth in front of him, and three or four 'plates' with a tooth or two stuck in them: he seemed to be busy taking an impression of a patient's mouth. Also glimpsed a cage full of forty or fifty shivering little birds: an old man having his back rubbed with a rubber-ended stick: a very fat man doing exercises on the steps of the main bathing ghat standing with one arm and then the other against a concrete pillar: a party of nuns with a woman's body on a bamboo stretcher on their shoulders, jogging through the narrow streets, broad red marks on their foreheads, chanting words to the effect that 'Rama is Truth' and they turned a corner in front of me and vanished towards the burning ghat.

I was escorted around by a highly strung young man wearing a lavender silk shirt who independently picked up the Australian I've been talking to. Robert Metherall, he is called, both, individually, into a silk factory: neither of us succumbed to the temptation of buying anything, however.

Benares is a pleasant town but the streets here seem to be more crowded than any I've seen anywhere. Met and talked to a young English hippy who hangs around the Tourist Bungalow but sleeps at the station. He says he has no money but it doesn't worry him, he eats better now than he did before, people giving him food. 'Nod', he calls himself. A mild, blond youth with glasses, not unintelligent. We talked a bit about Hinduism and Ramakrishna. He wants to join an ashram but was turned down in Pondicherry. His attitude to devotion seemed a bit muddled

Bodies for burning by the water:

what had sounded

so gruesome

when described

to me now

seemed natural

to me but he seemed to genuine desire for enlightenment. He had criticised the Ganges in which he had taken frequent dips. He off-punting mannerism (ing 'yeah' in the mid sentences).

Coming out of the street was idly inspecting some bags when a threadbare respectably dressed approaches and advises buy in the bazaar where are cheaper. It's rare to Indian approaches without ulterior motive so I wait. He asks if I know anyone could help him set up a stenographer. He says he turned down for a job in British High Commission says how, as a Christian name is Laurence Mitche Hinduism discriminate a him because Christians at the British. He wonders I could have held some against him; this turns out a much-used cloth-backed purporting to be from a saying that Mitchell served ten years in gaol for misfortune; viz. I killed someone, a Hindu, train who wanted to throw his Bible. Mitchell, it is trained boxer, had punched in the solar plexus and killed him (this reminds me the superstition among British that Hindus cave in easily if you punch them). seemed like the work fevered imagination to me who knows? In India any is possible.

After that had failed to my sympathy he produced letter from, supposedly, firm offering him a job. He couldn't take up for he didn't give him any, he to work for someone who give him the money if I know any such person, suggest car-washing and mass. Finally, he asked for more he was 'tiddy with hunger' I didn't give him any, he that the performance was smooth, the letter being a backed and so on. Also I just given him three rupees a meal and my generosity exhausted.

Walking along the street platform a completely a holy man carrying only a with a brass end like a wand rod and a metal water-jug which he splashed some water on himself. His burped a unburnt nut-colour. In this same yesterday I saw a priest being marched along in a padded handcuffs with a tied round his middle, (so by two policemen (or sold rather) one of them holding end of the rope. He was a looking young chap.

J. G. Farrell's unfinished novel *The Hill Station*, published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson on April 23 at £8.50.

*The Hill Station* and *Ind* (Nov 1981) by the Estate of the late J. G. Farrell.



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**MARVELLOUS MUSICAL**  
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**PAL JOE**  
"TO BE SEEN AT ALL COSTS"  
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## Chess

## When your opponent's away

The March number of the *British Chess Magazine* contains, most interestingly, an article entitled *Odds and Ends* written by the deputy editor, Bernard Cafferty, who is due to become editor when Brian Reilly retires later this year.

It contains one or two points to which I think I can add a little, but before so doing, let me say how valuable an addition to the editorial staff of the *BCM* Cafferty is. Among his many accomplishments is an excellent knowledge and command of Russian which has enabled him, for instance, to translate some passages from a book entitled *The First Steps* published in 1968 and written by the veteran Soviet organiser, V.V. Yermeyev, who died in late 1980.

They contain many reminiscences of a period between the two wars concerning the international tournaments held in the USSR then. One was about the great international tournament at Moscow in 1925.

In a game in the third round between the 20-year-old Mexican master, Carlos Torre, and the veteran American champion Frank Marshall, the latter studying the board while his opponent was away from it. Suddenly he made his move and then walked round to the opposite side to see what it looked like from there. Realizing it was a weak one, he went back to his seat and took the move back.

Some spectators reported the matter and the two arbiters, one of whom was Yermeyev, informed Marshall that the move must stand.

Before I exclaim in horror at Marshall's outrageous conduct I should perhaps explain that at that time the rules of chess were in a state of considerable confusion.

At least he had the grace to stop his opponent's clock and that brings me to an incident involving chess-clocks and the question of one's absence from the board that might perhaps be regarded as more reprehensible.

I was playing in the great Morozky Memorial Tournament at Budapest in 1952, an event that was immensely strong since it contained the then World Champion, Botvinnik, and four more Soviet grandmasters, Keres, Smyslov, Geller and Petrosian, all of whom were somewhere near the peak of their powers.

It was, I believe, Petrosian's first tournament abroad so what happened in his game with me may be attributed rather to natural cunning than to practised deception. Like Torre I was a peripatetic player and as soon as I made my move I would wander away to look at the other games. Coming back, I was astonished to find my clock going although it was still Petrosian's turn to move and although I knew I had pressed my clock lever down. Petrosian must have started my clock and that he did it deliberately was confirmed by the British Chess Magazine, 9 Market Street, St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex TN38 0DQ. The annual subscription is £9.60 and this means that for only 60 pence more than the

de Galway, of all this and later on O'Kelly came to me and said "I've told Botvinnik about this and he says he will speak to Petrosian and it will not happen again". Perhaps in Erevan in 1952 and in New York in 1925 it was believed that the rules did not apply when your opponent was absent from the board.

The other item in the *Candid Reminiscences* relates to Capablanca's first air flight. He had been playing in the Moscow Tournament of 1936 and went on to Kiev by train, accompanied by Yermeyev as guide and interpreter.

Time would not allow them to continue their tour by train and, on arriving at Kiev Airport, Capablanca found the small one-engine plane so unimpressive that he said he had to make his will leaving his estate to his wife. He offered it to Yermeyev but the latter pointed out that in the case of a crash the will would be lost anyway so it was left with the airport superintendent.

I too have visited the delightful city of Kiev. It was after the Moscow Olympiad of 1956. I had accepted an invitation to play in the great Alekhine Memorial tournament that was due to commence a week after the end of the Olympiad. Those of us who came from abroad and were invited to play in the tournament had been asked where we would like to go during the interval and, having been told by Bronstein of the Russian saying "Your tongue will lead you to Kiev" and also wishing to see the place of the Great Gate of Kiev so vividly described by Mousorgsky's *Pictures from an Exhibition*, chose Kiev.

In recognition of the pleasant Ukrainian hospitality, I gave a simultaneous display in Kiev. It was quite a large one, some 30-odd boards, and when one gives such a display the best course is to concentrate on the weaker players in order to dispose of them as soon as possible. One soon finds out which are the weaker players and matters went smoothly at first until I was much disconcerted to find the weaker players suddenly producing strong moves. A look at the spectators revealed the explanation. Behind each weak point they had stationed a Soviet master who was advising the player what to do.

I made a score of something like 56 per cent and was a little disconcerted at this, my worst result ever. "Never mind" they kindly said, "when Capablanca came here in 1936 he had a worse result." Only politeness made me refrain from replying: "I suppose you stationed grandmasters behind the weak points then."

Cafferty's article contains some more entertaining notes about Capablanca at Kiev but if you want to enjoy them you will have to get them from the March *BCM*. If you are not a subscriber to the magazine you can become one by sending the subscription form to the British Chess Magazine, 9 Market Street, St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex TN38 0DQ. The annual subscription is £9.60 and this means that for only 60 pence more than the

cost of becoming a Social Democrat you will, for at least one day every month for a year, be able to forget the dire political state of this country.

The *Game* Editor of the magazine is international master Bill Hartston, whom many will know for his entertaining comments on the Master Game on television. Here is a game of his which he won.

White: J. Kloostera Black: W. R. Hartston  
1. P4d Nc6 2. B7f3 Bc5 3. P4d4 P4d4 4. P4d5 Nf6 5. P4d6 Nf6 6. P4d7 Nf6 7. P4d8 Nf6 8. P4d9 Nf6 9. P4d0 Nf6 10. P4d1 Nf6 11. P4d2 Nf6 12. P4d3 Nf6 13. P4d4 Nf6 14. P4d5 Nf6 15. P4d6 Nf6 16. P4d7 Nf6 17. P4d8 Nf6 18. P4d9 Nf6 19. P4d0 Nf6 20. P4d1 Nf6 21. P4d2 Nf6 22. P4d3 Nf6 23. P4d4 Nf6 24. P4d5 Nf6 25. P4d6 Nf6 26. P4d7 Nf6 27. P4d8 Nf6 28. P4d9 Nf6 29. P4d0 Nf6 30. P4d1 Nf6 31. P4d2 Nf6 32. P4d3 Nf6 33. P4d4 Nf6 34. P4d5 Nf6 35. P4d6 Nf6 36. P4d7 Nf6 37. P4d8 Nf6 38. P4d9 Nf6 39. P4d0 Nf6 40. P4d1 Nf6 41. P4d2 Nf6 42. P4d3 Nf6 43. P4d4 Nf6 44. P4d5 Nf6 45. P4d6 Nf6 46. P4d7 Nf6 47. P4d8 Nf6 48. P4d9 Nf6 49. P4d0 Nf6 50. P4d1 Nf6 51. P4d2 Nf6 52. P4d3 Nf6 53. P4d4 Nf6 54. P4d5 Nf6 55. P4d6 Nf6 56. P4d7 Nf6 57. P4d8 Nf6 58. P4d9 Nf6 59. P4d0 Nf6 60. P4d1 Nf6 61. P4d2 Nf6 62. P4d3 Nf6 63. P4d4 Nf6 64. P4d5 Nf6 65. P4d6 Nf6 66. P4d7 Nf6 67. P4d8 Nf6 68. P4d9 Nf6 69. P4d0 Nf6 70. P4d1 Nf6 71. P4d2 Nf6 72. P4d3 Nf6 73. P4d4 Nf6 74. P4d5 Nf6 75. P4d6 Nf6 76. P4d7 Nf6 77. P4d8 Nf6 78. 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Prints and patches ■ glamorous nights

# Shoparound

Original weddings ■ a gem of an idea

with Beryl Downing

## Co-ordinating the best of Britain

A range of Staffordshire lamp bases made in plain colours to co-ordinate with carpets, wallpapers and fabrics was launched last week by Debenhams. The price is remarkable — £7.99 — and the concept even more so. For Debenhams have been getting British manufacturers to work together to produce special, medium-price co-ordinates formerly found only in expensive interior decorator ranges.

This design exercise is part of the group's plan to cut foreign buying by 40 per cent this year and to increase the proportion of British goods in their stores from 75 per cent to 90 per cent. Unlike some other large groups who have been jumping on the Buy British bandwagon, they are not just flag waving for a few weeks' promotion. They are launching a plan which will last throughout the eighties.

Part of the reason that British names are disappearing from the High Street is that business has been so difficult for retailers that many have taken the soft option by buying cheaply abroad, says Brian Richmond, managing director (buying) of the group.

"We are now setting targets with 200 of our major British suppliers and we are prepared to accept lower margins if necessary. We don't want people to buy just because it is British but because it offers really good value."

To most shoppers, that might seem like the first time anyone from a

store group has talked sense since the recession began. It was a mystery to me that some shopkeepers, large and small, moaned about poor sales last year, particularly in fashion, while they tucked on anything up to a 140 per cent mark-up.

I know all about increased overheads, but don't any sales with a smaller profit margin add up to more than no sales because the price has frightened people off?

There is no such danger at Debenhams. Among their new bargains are some good-looking plain carpets in 80 per cent wool and 20 per cent nylon at £14.50 a square yard. They are made specially for the group by Tompkins and come in a range of expensive-looking colours. Ten are in stock, five are to order.

The Staffordshire lamps come in green, cream and pink to co-ordinate with the colours of Fogarty duvets and wallpapers — and those patterns can also be picked up in lampshades.

There is no danger of missing the best of British at Debenhams. The goods are all labelled with red, white and blue arrows, which are also hung about all the stores, pointing you in the right direction. And if you would like to see various versions of their co-ordinates, a fully furnished bungalow is on display now in their Sheffield store.

There is also a house in their Bristol store and they have decorated three more for the Milton Keynes 'Homeworld '81 housing exhibition which opens on May 2.

Below: A new range of mix and match porcelain, designed in Dallas by Fitz and Floyd, is a favourite in America and has just been introduced here by Heals, Tottenham Court Road, London W1. Highly decorative designs in bold colours have plain items in matching shades to give a greater opportunity for individual combinations. From a selection of designs, the plate in dark green, white and gold, is £14.20. Green and gold coffee or tea pot, £50.30.



## Patchwork prints

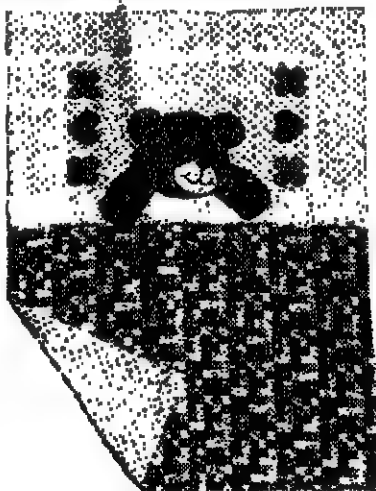
Already top of the shops for medium-priced furnishing fabrics, John Lewis has opened a new section with an emphasis on fabrics suitable for patchwork and other crafts. It also offers new American paper patterns, at £1.95 each, for patchwork and appliqué quilts and there is a range of toy fabrics, all ready to cut out and stuff.

The demand for special fabrics for patchwork has been increasing, but in fact the best designs have always been carefully planned and the new department has ranges of specially co-ordinated prints suitable for a variety of traditional patchwork designs. Most are in 114cm wide cotton at £2.45 a metre and there are ready-quilted fabrics 110cm wide at £5.95 a metre.

The ready-to-cut toys are printed in bright colours on strong cotton panels. You cut out the shapes, sew by hand or machine round three sides, stuff and stitch up the fourth side.

Elephant parade (three floral elephants, trunk to tail) costs £2.95 a panel. Other designs include a family of four noddily dressed cats at £2.95 each and three somewhat rural rabbits at £2.25 a panel. Filling is extra.

More animals feature on cot quilts, also sold by the panel at £6.50. This includes a ready-quilted panel in a variety of designs, with a floral fabric back and sandwich of Terylene wadding. You simply cut it off the roll and bind the edges with bias, lace, ribbon or a special matching trimming at 99p a metre. You need 4.28 metres of the trimming.



## Stripping

For DIY enthusiasts who enjoy having fun with a little stripper, Stripline comes in powder form to be mixed with cold water to form a paste. It is used in conjunction with a "Magic Blanket" which is to be cut to the shape of the area to be stripped. For painted surfaces the

paste is applied to the surface to be stripped and covered with the blanket, for varnished surfaces apply the paste direct to the blanket and then lay it on the wood. For chairs and banister rails, the blanket is cut into strips and wrapped round like bandage.

Stripline works by dissolving and absorbing the paint without scraping and can take from 10 minutes to several hours to work — six hours is

the average. It comes in a 2 kilo pack, making enough paste to strip 16 sq. ft. It costs £5.79, including a pair of gloves and an applicator. The Magic Blanket, 3 sq. ft., costs £4.46 and can be reassembled by heat welding with a gas lighter — if you can be bothered to wash out all the gunge. Both are available, with P&P on each item from Stripline, PO Box 5, Thame, Oxon, or telephone 0844-208573.

In the collection which show food — answers in some cases can be drawn. Quiz sheets from the Quiz Desk, Orange Street entrance, where you can also get details of a children's painting competition on the same food theme — first prize £100. Entries in both quiz and competition up to May 3. (Open Sundays, closed Good Friday).

The National Portrait Gallery

## Quizzing

Two London gallery visits for your Easter holiday think-tank: The National Gallery has a children's quiz called the Weight Watcher's Guide to the Gallery. There is a junior and a senior version, quizzing children about some of the paintings

## A touch of undercover scandal from the north

A new shop specializing in glamorous underwear has opened in that home of north-east winds and nobly nightshirts — Newcastle upon Tyne. Brenda Gelder, the owner, saw that all her friends were having to shop in London, or even abroad, for really pretty lingerie, so she decided it was time for a spot of Scandal in Geordieland.

An ex-teacher with a hankering to run a business, she went about it in a most scholarly way — researching her subject for two years by visiting specialist lingerie shops throughout the country, picking brains and learning tricks of the trade before venturing to West Germany and France to buy.

She concentrates on pure fabrics — silk, wool and cotton — and she deals with small companies who are prepared to make specially for her.

From Belgium she has a T-shirt style nightie range, with unusual picture appliques and cotton Bermuda pyjama sets that double up as summer loungers. Both these ranges are by Vandy from about £26.

She also seeks out British designers with special talents. Next week her window will be full of delectable wisps of white silk — a first collection by a local company, Cucumber Cottage. It includes a nightdress cut on the bias so that it floats from the deep V back and front, with a matching quilted and waisted jacket — together, £170.

Another set at the same price is in hand-painted silk by Jane Lindsey. It consists of pyjama trousers and cummerbund with jacket and camisole top painted with lilies and embroidered with beads.

For those who prefer cotton, there

are nightdresses and negligees from around £25 in broderie anglaise by Frances of Fendigo, another local designer. She will make special sizes, not only in length but also to fit measurements that are too often expected by mass manufacturers of lingerie to be standard — width of arms, for instance.

The emphasis is on personal service — there is an attractive little salon on the first floor where customers can have a cup of coffee and discuss their preferences. "We have equally good taste in the suburbs, you know," says Brenda Gelder. "But we feel so deprived because we don't have the city shopper's opportunity."

If that's all you are waiting for, the address is Scandal Lingerie, 4 Merton Road, Ponteland, Newcastle upon Tyne. Telephone: Ponteland 22551.

## Just right for the bride

Judging by present-day invitations, weddings are becoming friendlier, even if statistics suggest that marriages are not. So much tradition and protocol is involved with the ceremony that the summing-up of the feast is one of the few ways in which a couple can add a touch of originality.

The more adventurous specialist shops have boxes of suitable cards which can be overprinted as you wish. Pulp, 108 Crawford Street, London W1 is one of these, offering boxes of cream cards embossed with a golden heart at the top, or white cards embossed with a series of raised white dots in the shape of a large white heart in the centre. Both these styles are £3.95 for eight, including envelopes, and there are cards with a broad silver edging and silver-lined envelopes, £4.50 for 20. Nice for silver wedding party invitations, too.

Diana Sherman, the owner of Pulp, is an illustrator and will produce special designs to order. She travels regularly to America, home of a great deal of the unconventional, interesting stationery she stocks, and has plenty of original suggestions — telephone 01-486 9351 — to make an appointment to discuss ideas.

Among the papers she uses for special printing is a parchment-type in an attractive range of colours — pink, white, champagne, natural and pale blue. It is called Parch Margee and costs £6 for 100 cards, £5 for 100 sheets of A4 paper. Printed in maroon on pink, or in brown on champagne, it looks very stylish. Art work, from £14, printing extra.

There is no need to stick rigidly to formal wording if you choose an unconventional layout for your invitations. "Mr and Mrs Peter Powell would like you to help them celebrate the marriage of their daughter — or even Tony and Sheila invite you to their wedding as it was acceptable these days as requesting the pleasure of your company."

It is also becoming more popular to carry the design theme of the invitation through all the wedding stationery — order of service sheets for the church, place cards for the reception, for instance. One of the most attractive designs I have seen had silhouettes of the couple's profiles set in oval surrounds above a

decorative lover's knot. Both invitations and order of service were printed in terracotta on heavy paper.

For a similarly creative design, first catch your own artist. Unless you happen to know one personally, this could be more difficult than you think, as commercial studios cannot afford to specialize in wedding stationery alone. Finding an original theme on the subject of weddings takes as much time in the thinking as in the drawing, so costs of artwork could be anything from £50 to £150. You could approach your local art college, whose graphic design students might be persuaded to express their talents for a reward you would both consider reasonable.

If, however, you live in or near London and want to take the easy way out and let experts arrange everything from the invitations to the invoices, there is a company called CC Management Consultants whose Top Drawer wedding arrangements are so comprehensive they only just stop short of choosing the groom.

The service is run by Heather Pickering, who for eight years has been involved in organizing what she describes as "up-market commercial functions". These included a jousting tournament at Knobworth House and the only private firing of Arundel Castle for a dinner party. At the moment she is busy finding office space along the royal wedding route to ensure that her clients get the best possible view.

She maintains that too many weddings are "embarrassingly amateur" and that the same principles apply to their organization as to the planning of any large commercial function. She and her partner, John Cooke, who is a catering specialist, will choose reception venues for you, consult on music, suggest suppliers, arrange guards of honour, supervise the going-away arrangements, see the bridesmaids get home safely and even arrange for the gas to be turned on in the new house for the honeymoon couple to return to.

Fees, of course, depend on just how much help you want and how far from London you live. For more details write to Top Drawer, CC Management Consultants, 188 Upminster Road South, Rainham, Essex, or telephone Rainham 23396, or 01-321 9368.

Left: White trousers in silk, a drift of silk and lace by Janet Roger. In white, black, and gold, trousers in silk, with lace. Size 32 to 36. Nightgown £133.85, negligee £163.60. From Janet Roger, 2 Bessingham Place, London SW3 and from their branch at 12 New Bond Street, W1, who will do mail order.

Below: Patchwork cardstock in silk, crepe de chine by Julia for Charles Graham. In white with white or subtle lace, or black with black or beige lace. Small, medium and large, £51.75 from Just Jackie, Leicester, Fenner, Manchester, Harrods.

Below: Informal modern wedding invitation has a sunny "For better or worse" version of the weather house on the front. Designed by David Hart.



## The extravagance of loot

The jewelry section of the fine arts department at Harrods departs this week from its usual tradition of showing Georgian, Victorian and Edwardian jewelry by presenting an exhibition by three modern designers. Two are English, Ellis Palmer and Pleasance Kirk, and one American, Frances Bendixson.

They were selected by the fine arts buyer, Joanna Hardinge, at a 1980 exhibition at the Goldsmiths' Hall, because, unlike many "straight modern jewellers," they create highly decorative pieces with a feeling of extravagance.

The quantities which all the pieces have in common are delicacy and a fluidity of line. Pleasance Kirk works mainly in gold and gemstones and Ellis Palmer sets pearls and diamonds in mixtures of gold and silver and allows part of the silver to oxidize, and take on pretty shades of blue and magenta.

Frances Bendixson's specialties are Edwardian-style chokers and rings made of antique beads and set into the most intricately woven silver wire — like crocheted cobweb. They manage to be delicate and flamboyant

at the same time — intended for hands that demand to be noticed.

She was trained as an art historian and she uses coloured beads as if she were arranging dewdrops of paint on a canvas. She buys old beads because of their patina and mixes them occasionally with new ones for contrast of texture — amethysts, rose quartz and black pearls, citrine, ivory and moonstones, jet, cornelian and brown coral.

Prices range from £50 for rings and £100-£200 for earrings to £500 for necklaces. She also enjoys creating designs specially to suit clients' own beads, so if you have, perhaps, some broken amber or jet, she will find beads or stones to complement them and set them as you wish. Because of her use of old beads no two pieces are exactly repeatable and you can be sure of a unique piece.

Apart from the work on show at Harrods you can also see pieces by Frances Bendixson at the Electrum Gallery, South Molton Street, London W1 and the Casson Gallery, 73 Marylebone High Street W1. For special commissions telephone 01-352 0520.

Left: Asymmetrical earrings with antique beads of amethyst, rose quartz, black pearl, and frosted glass set in silver. Ring of rose quartz, frosted agate, and black pearls. From a selection by Frances Bendixson at the exhibition of modern jewelry in the fine arts department at Harrods.



Yuri Gagarin  
(right) made history  
for Russia two  
decades ago as the  
first cosmonaut.  
Michael Binyon  
explains why the  
space programme  
means so much  
to the Soviet leaders

Twenty years ago a young fresh-faced colonel with typically Slav features and an infectious smile was shot into outer space aboard a primitive Soviet spaceship Vostok and went into orbit around the earth. The world gasped in admiration, the Soviet Union bubbled over with pride, and Yuri Gagarin, the first man in space, established himself overnight as a living legend.

The space race was on in earnest. The Americans, surprised and humiliated, poured unlimited funds into the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, launched a crash programme of testing and research and did not rest until Colonel Neil Armstrong took his first "giant step for mankind" on the moon in 1969.

Since then the Americans have sent other astronauts bumping over the moon's surface in moon buggies, landed automatic miniature laboratories on Mars to look for life in the cold, red dust, and dispatched rockets into the farthest depths of the galaxy.

The Russians meanwhile have plodded on with their own less dramatic missions to Venus, unmanned landings on the moon and large-scale scientific missions in the aging orbiting laboratory Salyut 6. And as the American space programme struggles with public indifference and a dwindling budget—revived temporarily by the space shuttle programme—the Russians, with inferior equipment, a weaker technical base and a less ambitious scientific programme, have continued to treat space exploration as a national priority.

Soviet rockets blast off from the Baikonur space centre in Kazakhstan with predictable regularity. More than half the 103 spacemen who have whirled around the world have



## The immortal spaceman

been Russians, and the Soviet Union is now also ferrying out cosmonauts from allied communist countries, the latest being the 33-year-old son of a Mongolian shepherd. Medals and honours are routinely handed out to cosmonauts, men, banner headlines welcome each new launch and every year, on the anniversary of Gagarin's flight on April 12, the Russians celebrate their space programme as "Cosmonauts' Day".

Why do the Russians still regard all this as important? What benefits have their expensive space shots brought them, and why is Yuri Gagarin, whose titanium futuristic statue overlooks one of Moscow's main avenues, still venerated as a national hero?

Part of the gains in scientific knowledge and engineering expertise, Soviet space shots have played an incalculable role in boosting Soviet prestige both at home and abroad. The space programme has been used to project overseas an image of Soviet science in general far beyond that merited by other areas of achievement. It has been used as a demonstration of the party's commitment to "progress" and technical advance. It has even been used as an instrument of foreign policy—

the joint Soviet-American space link-up in 1975 was the symbolic manifestation of the closer Soviet-American political relations and the ushering in of détente that followed the Brezhnev-Nixon summit in 1972. An underlying theme has been the Soviet Union's commitment to peace and the benefit of mankind, which are to be achieved only under the guidance of the Communist Party. At the Soviet cosmonaut commander routinely pledges in a formal statement to carry out the assigned tasks, and expresses "warm thanks" to the Communist Party and government leaders for their "high trust". Significantly, a special message was flashed from outer space to the Olympic opening ceremony.

Ten years ago the Soviet leadership identified itself with the space programme's successes in characteristic declaration: "Yuri Gagarin's flight was a triumph of socialism, a brilliant confirmation of Lenin's prediction about the stormy growth of the socialist state, a sign of the flourishing of the inexhaustible talents of our people. The Soviet state's outstanding successes in space exploration have won worldwide recognition."

The message of course is intended especially for citizens at home. It reassures Russians, ever sceptical of official boasting and claims of Soviet achievement, that they can still surprise the world with science, even if they cannot produce the consumer goods at home. Here at last is a field in which the Russians can genuinely compete with the Americans.

Western scientists and engineers have long pointed out that the Soviet space programme in fact does not compete with the American one in technology or innovation. But because of the great secrecy surrounding the programme, many of the details are unknown. It is not even clear who is in overall charge.

Two important figures were Matvey Keldysh, a former president of the academy, and Sergey Korolev, the chief designer of the space programme until his death in 1966. But western analysts have been unable to determine the roles of other prominent space engineers, their budget or their future priorities.

For the moment the Russians have concentrated on testing the human reaction to prolonged space flight. Their latest space shots, lasting over six months, have shown that given the right

exercise and a carefully balanced regime, there appears to be no reason apart from the psychological difficulties why man could not stay up at least a year in a space laboratory. And the eventual aim appears to be a permanently manned orbiting station, which would be of considerable value in earth observation, experiments such as the manufacture of crystals, semi-conductors and certain alloys, and of course—though not stated—in achieving a military advantage in outer space.

These aims are more modest than the space shuttle, which the Russians have criticized for its military implications. And now the bumpy days of joint programmes with the United States appear to be gone for ever, the Soviet Union sees the space race taking on a new seriousness. For the shaky Soviet economy, the space programme is a costly item. But it has fully justified itself in its political benefits. Before his tragic death in an air accident in 1968, Yuri Gagarin's smile alone must have earned his country more popular good will than all the speeches of Soviet leaders since. And for that he will be remembered with affection and gratitude by his countrymen tomorrow.

Fred Emery

## The new party and friends: it's intermission time

"But the old politics is dying. The battle to decide what the new politics will be like is just beginning. It is possible, just possible," Mrs Shirley Williams somewhat tentatively concludes her new book, "that it will be a politics for people."

Like much that the Social Democrats say, all parties could agree with that. An effort to involve more people, serve the people more, is what democratic politicians of all colours keep telling themselves they are about, whatever the quality of their achievement.

Perhaps only the Labour leadership clings to the old formulae of corporatism, with a government by consensus with the union leaders. Everyone else is more restive. It is Mr Tony Benn's rhetorical strength, in his recent challenge to the trade union bosses, that he proclaims the will to "extend democracy"—even if it turns out to mean all power to the activist.

It is one of the presumptions of the Conservative Government to be restoring law and order, decision-making to the people—even if

their delivery is wanting. Indeed, it is one of the worries of some in the present Cabinet that Social Democrats and Liberals could really run off with the prize if they could invent a way to make participation—perish the phrase, industrial democracy—work at work.

It is not clear, especially in a recession, that there is widespread fervour for this around the country. Where countries have tried involvement, or codetermination, as Mrs Williams suggests, it usually excites only a minority who in turn become an elite and so breed a new divisiveness. However, this does not mean that we have not tried it should accept that we cannot make it work.

It is interesting that senior Tories are worried. It would be a good bet that whatever pre-election package they tried to concoct with the economy in such straits will include a new effort in involving the workforce in the running of the firm. That thrust is likely to have greater force than any further efforts to constrict trade unions by law.

The Social Democrats certainly intend being the pacemakers. Dr

David Owen's book, *Face the Future*, has far more detail than Mrs Williams'. But the Social Democrats' stated principle of deciding things by one member one vote, is intended to be the model for much that would follow. Although they promise stability in general economic policy, they promise a virtual revolution by devolution. In business, and local government, there might be decentralizing participation that would turn the country into a federation of regions in all but name. The policy, of course, remains to be decided.

And before we get there, there is the matter of getting elected under the old politics. This last week has confirmed that even with the Social Democrats and Liberals the battle is going to be among the parties before they get to their opponents.

No one should be surprised. There has been an inherent tension and contradiction between Mr David Steel's wish for an effective coalition from the start and the majority Social Democrats' wish for one at the end, as it were.

The Liberal leader preferred forging his alliance before the new party had set in its mould. But for the Social Democrats the heat and excitement of the forging heighten the need for a distinct and separate image, different from anything seen in the old politics.

If no surprises, there are inevitable disappointments. Both the Liberal and Social Democrat leaders had, it seemed, intended by this weekend to have announced their joint negotiating committee. Mr Steel talks about a timetable for an agreement to be reached in time to put his to his party conference in the autumn. But he is most concerned with momentum and wanted to keep the ball rolling, especially ahead of next month's local elections. He seems to have thought he had it tied down after his meeting with Social Democrats during the Kingswinter conference in Germany last weekend. So, it seems, did Mrs Williams.

But other MPs and former MPs on the Social Democrats' negotiating committee could not understand the rush. They resented the pressure

from the Liberals. Did they not now have their own momentum to think of? Some thought it would upstage their impressive recruiting figures to be seen rushing around, as one put it, holding hands and kissing in public with the Liberals.

So there was, of course, with the ultimate strategy that they must not fight each other. But the majority wanted all talk of agreement with the Liberals to come slowly. Ideally, in one view, such agreement ought to come only when there was a proper Social Democratic Party to participate in the decision, which meant next year at the earliest. Several former Labour MPs wanted more time to get used to the idea of even an arm's length relationship with the Liberals, having fought them all their careers.

So there will be an intermission. How long, is none too clear. Relationships between Liberals and Social Democrats which have been uneven, ranging from cordiality through prickliness to outright scorn will now have time to deteriorate again, as well as improve.

It has been Mr Steel's thesis that the sooner they get started on impressing the electorate the better. The Liberals know what feels like to be Sisyphus repeatedly rolling their stones up the hill of the election system. Confirmation that it is getting worse, not better—whatever the glittering opinion polls say—came again last week in a research paper to the Political Studies Association conference at the University of Hull, by Mr Michael Steel and Mr John Giddens. On present trends, and with boundary changes likely to help the Conservatives, they foresee a fall in the number of marginal seats. They also predict a greater likelihood of "hung parliaments". But, and here is the greatest warning to the Social Democrats, they speak of the danger of having the vote spread even more evenly all round the country than is the current Liberal support.

Such is the concentration—north versus south, towns versus country—of Labour and Conservative strength, they note that unless the

combined Liberal and Social Democratic vote were well over 30 per cent the end result might be to increase the disadvantage hitherto suffered by nationwide third parties. In other words, Mr Ford's wishful prediction that the SDP might end up with not a single seat might come true.

Nor should the would-be allies comfort themselves with the thought of being decision makers in a hung parliament. There remains another possibility of coalition with which the major parties, if it came to it, could defy the interlopers: that is a grand coalition between Conservatives and Labour. Preposterous now, perhaps, but a new form of old politics not to be totally excluded from calculations.

Shirley Williams's book, *Politics for People* (Allen Lane, hardback, £8.50; Penguin, paperback, £2.50) will be the subject of an article by Ian Bradley on Monday.

Letter from Hongkong

## Life with the madding crowd

The Anglo-Chinese banker cazed down at the scurrying centre of Hongkong, mercifully reduced to near silence by the drizzle-glazing, from his well-padded crie on the 25th floor. "People always ask if China will take the place back when the lease expires in 1997," he said. "Personally, I sometimes wonder if I would want it back."

He had a point. Hongkong is best seen from a distance—from the belly-bottomed old Star Ferry that plies across the harbour, where it has all the neatness of a high-rise architect's display case. Or from the lush woods and even lusher real estate of the Peak rising above it, where you can watch the sun setting over the South China Sea and fancy that the concrete is your own private toehold.

At closer quarters it is a less fragrant proposition: energizing but also exhausting. The story is told of the Scotland Yard officer who arrived to head the local CID, saluted forth on his first morning for a gentle constitutional and was promptly submerged in the human tide. They had to fly him home the following week. It is odd, though, to find a place that affects the claustrophobia as much as the agoraphobia.

Your liking for Hongkong will depend on the constitution of your adrenal glands, but you could run out of adjectives to describe it. In a setting where generations of cultural change are telescoped into a few years, "insecure" is probably the most accurate. Refugees from rural China are whisked

out of their shanty-town squallors and rehoused in the clouds, 35 sq ft apiece. They do not mind, say the authorities: the Chinese are naturally pragmatic and besides, what are the alternatives to high-rise living where space costs more than £2,000 a sq ft?

But the planar speaking will tell you that wife-battering and child abuse, both most un-Chinese, are on the increase, that the extended family is breaking up, that traditional politenesses are vanishing in the pursuit of money.

"Everything is for money," laments one social worker. "We are so ill-mannered. Our values have gone haywire." The tourist association has started a courtesy scheme: the Japanese, it seems, are the chief victims.

It is hardly surprising in a city where impermanence is manifest. There is more construction work in Hongkong, say the experts, than the whole of Britain, and listening to the din of pile-driver and jackhammer you can believe it. The place is like an immense organism, continuously self-renewing, sprouting new limbs for old, and scant regard is paid to architectural distinction if it is less than 10 storeys high. The splendid old Post Office has gone; the Hongkong Club and the Marine Offices, both handsome in their own way and serving to alleviate the unending rectangularity, will follow suit. Fortunately Flagstaff House, pure white and porticoed, the traditional residence of the British GOC, is to be retained as a museum.

Sadly, many of the sky-

scrappers seem to exude an anti-septic aura at street level, driving away the reeking hawkers who crowd Hongkong's entire promiscuity. There are 45,000 of them, a third unemployed, and it is typical of the colony's expanding welfare-state paternalism that they are eventually to be surveyed, reorganized and locked away in multi-storey purpose-built markets. They set in people's way, say the politicians.

The politicians, however, do not get in the people's way. Despite new Government plans for more local democracy, last month's elections produced the worst turnout for years. The outburst of apathy apparently extended to the young and was explained in the same way as the absence of vandalism and graffiti—everyone was too busy making money.

People come to Hongkong to escape politics, to avoid the Peking-Taiwan polarity, the argument runs, and anyway there is the ancient Chinese view of bureaucrats—"all crows are black." The colony is nevertheless getting on boomingly well with mainland China, resuming its historical role as an entrepot. Re-exports to China more than trebled last year: investment was up fivefold. For many local capitalists, it is a matter of going beyond their childhood villages, their relatives, and "putting on" remain the driving force. Like the insect colony where a chemical message permeates almost instantly thanks to innumerable interactions, Hongkong is preternaturally fashion-conscious, and the "eye-eyes" as the ille-

gal immigrants, who made it from China before last year's clampdown now stalk about in track suits and sneakers emblazoned with makers' names. Sport is the mode, chiming well with the Chinese preoccupation with bodily health and fitness. Every morning, 30,000 shadow-box on the rooftops.

Many of Hongkong's charms should be sampled soon, before they are demolished. Like Cat Street and its environs, home of fake antiques, poached ivory, fleamarkets and snake shops, but now the subject of urban renewal. Or the Tiger Balm gardens, where Mr Aw Bun Haw, of Haw Par fame, commemorated the all-purpose cure for lumbago, gout and scorpion bite that made him a millionaire and did so in a style horribly reminiscent of Hieronymus Bosch. Its future, too, appears limited.

Or there is Ocean Park, built in typically cavalier fashion on a prominent headland, where you can view the biggest and probably the most beautiful aquarium in the world: an exquisite simulation of coral reef inhabited by countless small fish like liquorice allsorts, patrolled by leopard sharks and rays and lit with the same secret magic as Wan Chai or Tsui Sha Tsui, chief haunt of the city's strollers and pleasure-seekers at night. It reminds one, oddly, of Hongkong itself—and since it was built only four years ago, it has a bit of time to run yet.

David Nicholson-Lord

Sportswriter

## These boots were made for trotting

Dovedale will be busily pretty at Easter. This spectacular topographic jungle, worn to a brownish green by millions of booted feet, owed its original fame to Charles Cotton and Isaac Walton. George Eliot gave the place fictional embellishment. The intimate little gorge has since assumed a starring role in the inanimate cast of Britain's first national park: the Peak District, designated 30 years ago.

The only way to explore Dovedale—or, for that matter, any of the most magical chunks of the Peak District—is on foot. Walking is the first and last thing we do in the way of conventional exercise and it acquires a special importance in middle age, when physical ambitions are born from a marriage of convenience between reason and romanticism. Reason insists that declining energies should be concentrated on the practicable as distinct from the ideal. Romanticism, unusually compatible, tempts us to rekindle old fires and let the sparks fly where they will.

The Peak District is just the place for all that: the walking, and the intellectual, and the promise. It is more accessible than the Lake District and vies with it as England's most popular terrain for ramblers, especially the hardy kind who regard mucky boots as the light-footed friend of a good day. The breed proudly accept a generic label of bog-trotters: a term coined to describe those Irish tramps renowned for fancy footwork when nipping from tussock to tussock.

The modern descendants of these light-footed layabouts seek refreshment for the soul and exercise for the body on the high, lonely, often trackless wasteland of Kinder Scout. Bleakier, and a few more places represented by dark brown patches on the Ordnance

Survey map. The Pennine Way put the stamp of official tolerance on their eccentricity, but the genuine bog-trotter remains disdainful about any laws with even a hint of official channels. He prefers to make his own way across the wild moorland but, in case the weather turns nasty, takes the precaution of dressing for trouble and packing a compass. Those who prefer more charming, less strenuous challenges, head for Dovedale and other limestone dales. But the excitement lies in bog-trotting or climbing among the gritstone heights. Feet were worn for walking and hands were added for the convenience of climbers. Whatever your needs, the Peak District can become a private gymnasium.

Whenever I see the friendly bulk of the Sirkyn Edge etched against the skyline north of Chatsworth, the sight revives memories of a muscular chimney sweep who, in emergency, had clambered over rooftops to rescue his brush. We scrambled up modest pitches and then propped our backs against that honest grapple, Alport Dale and its example of the geological jokes erosion can play. At the Wyke valley between Buxton and Ashford

that chapter is closed. Middle age changes the rules, especially after one fall and many submissions. But given the soundless, warm parks, and a decent pair of boots, there is still much bog-trotting to be done; and where is the harm in an occasional scramble up the sort of rock that begs for the carefully adhesive company of a man who remembers his descendants and does not hate daft?

Even if your knees do not take the strain as well as they once did, there is much fun to be had from an excursion to Kinder Dowlall—an infrequently amusing spectacle in that, when there is a good flow of water and a strong wind from the right quarter, the Dowlall is blown upwards (yes upwards) like steam from a giant kettle. It really is time, now that Easter is coming and the sap is rising, to have another look at Kinder—especially on that arduously rewarding round walk from Edale to Hope.

It is time, too, for another look at the view from Derwent Edge or Win Mill from Derwent Dale and the well-remembered villages of Derwent and Ash-ton. At the secluded, unspoiled Alport Dale and its example of the geological jokes erosion can play. At the Wyke valley between Buxton and Ashford

in the Water, where the church still cherishes paper garlands formerly carried at the funerals of bearded monks who died before marriage. At the Goyt Valley and the evocative ruins of Erwood Hall, where sheep graze amid the rubble of a once-splendid heap of a tower. At Chatsworth and Haddon Hall. All the way, we would walk with the ghosts of Little John, Charlotte Brontë, Jane Eyre, Mary Queen of Scots, Bonnie Prince Charlie and—in the awful emptiness of Longdendale—Roman soldiers.

All that would be reasonable. And who is to argue with a mid-aged man tidying up a few loose ends left over from his youth? What a walk it must be along all those escarpments from Chatsworth to Derwent Dale, almost 20 miles in the company of the gods. Or down the Manifold (which drops out of sight for a while through a limestone colander) and then up Dovedale to an inn where once heard a man say that he liked to see a head on his belt, so that he could tell it was the right way up.

Why, there is even a mystery to be solved—an implied promise made at the upland village of Grindon. I called at the seventeenth century inn one day and was told: "Sorry, we don't open till Easter." No reasonable man could go to the grave with a comment like that on his mind. Grindon, after all, is just a healthy stroll uphill from the Manifold: the fires of thing to rekindle incalculable warmth. Easter is upon us. Where on earth did I put those dubiously dubbed boots?

Rex Bellamy

Rex Bellamy's fourth book, *The Peak District Companion: A Walker's Guide to its Peaks, Dales and History* (228 pp, £7.95), will be published by David & Charles on April 30.

## As shares leap, is recovery really round the corner?

An improved outlook for profits does not mean that the total output of the economy will start rising too

While the economists sign letters predicting economic gloom, the Stock Exchange has been living through a boom. The Financial Times 30-share Index of leading industrial companies went up by 1.5 points to close at 551.3 yesterday only 7.3 points below its record high. The All-Share index is actually at a new record level.

Who is right, the stock market optimists who expect the worst is over or the economic pessimists who warn of continuing stagnation?

Probably both are. The latest round of increases in share prices have been heavily influenced by technical factors, most notably by the takeover fever which is beginning to affect some of the big names which play a prominent part in trading.

But more fundamentally, the stock market expects an improvement over the economy in the life blood of company performance—the profit figures which measure companies' success. Stockbrokers Phillips and Drew expect that the profits of industrial companies could rise by 30 per cent next year. That is enough to put a smile on the face of any of the institutional buyers who now account for over two thirds of the equity market.

But an improved outlook for profits does not mean that the total output of the economy will start rising as a result. One of the reasons why profits over the next 18 months should start moving ahead is that companies have cut back their workforces, bearing heavy redundancy costs in 1980 in order to make savings. That change will do little to boost output in the year ahead.

What the stock market is predicting is that the pattern of the past two years, when the living standards of workers have risen and the state of companies has declined to perilous depths, may be about to reverse itself. But that does not mean that the total level of output will go up significantly.

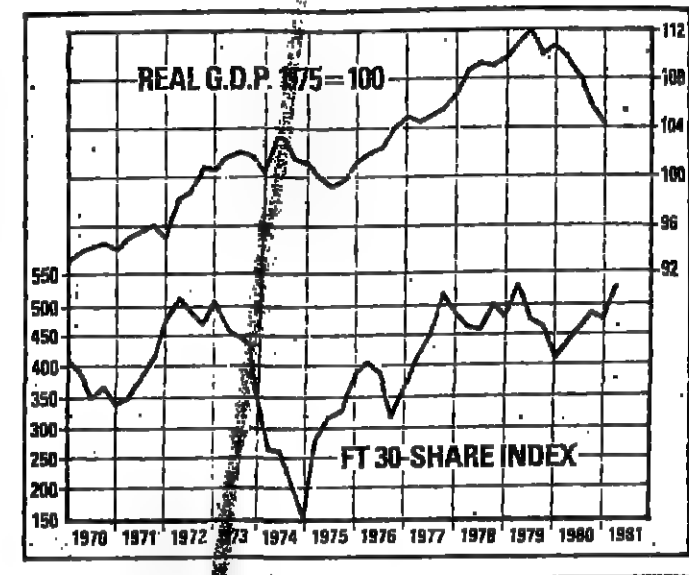
Yet as the chart shows, the share index has always in the past gone up ahead of any economic recovery. But look closer

and you can see that the share index is, if anything, too sensitive an indicator. In late 1979 it predicted a slump that never really happened. In 1977 and 1978 it bounced up and down at a time when the economy was still moving steadily forwards.

Movements in the price of shares are included in the Central Statistical Office's longer leading indicators, which are designed to tell what will happen to the economy about 15 months ahead.

One final sign of the inflationary times in which we live puts the performance of shares over the past 10 years in perspective. If the FT Index had kept pace with inflation since 1970, it would have closed last night not at 551.3 but at 1600.

David Blake  
Economics Editor







## THE MEMBER FOR THE MAZE

The art of winning elections in Fermanagh and South Tyrone is not to split the vote. It is a constituency in which the unionist/protestant and nationalist/catholic types of Ulstermen are fairly evenly poised, with a natural advantage to the latter of about 5,000 electors out of about 70,000. If there is a candidate with a clear run on each side, what happens next depends on (a) differential apathy and (b) the representability of the candidate as representatives of their respective tribes.

On this occasion there was one candidate on each side of the divide: on the Unionist side because Mr Paisley dared not rest his strength there, and on the nationalist side because the SDLP, the main advocates of a constitutional approach to Irish unity, allowed itself to be outmanoeuvred at the nomination stage. It pays a heavy penalty for that default, and so does the whole province. Political apathy has been squeezed out of that part of Ulster by a relentless campaign of hit-and-run murders from across the border and by reawakened nationalist expectations after the Thatcher-Haughhey talks. The result of the election would therefore turn on the candidates' acceptability to their own natural supporters. Cross voting is unknown, and when the non-sectarian Alliance Party put in an appearance in 1979 it got 17 per cent of the vote.

Mr Harry West has none of the attractions of youth and novelty, but he was a safe receptacle for the unionist vote. Mr Robert Sands looked a more doubtful runner: a prominent Provisional IRA man, sentenced to 14 years for firearms offences, 40 days into a fast to death at the Maze prison. Which would be decisive, repugnance to an organization of systematic political murder, or sympathy for a young patriot immolating himself in the cause of Ireland's

ancient quarrel with England? Who knew the answer.

It is a brilliant propaganda coup for the Provisional IRA. It augments their H-block protest as never before. More than the value they will put on the face of it is that the nationalist electors of Ireland do not merely back the Provisionals in their heart of hearts but, given the chance, come out en masse to vote for them. It is a spurious claim since all they asked for from the voters was endorsement of the demand for political status for IRA prisoners in support for Mr Sands's self-sacrifice. It also grossly oversimplifies the states of mind of nationalists in that border county when presented with the choice of endorsing the IRA or voting for a unionist. To deny the seat to the other side must have been for many the chief consideration.

But no qualification or distinction however valid is going to rot the Provisionals of the propaganda value of their victory in the Republic—or diminish its impact in the province on a humiliated SDLP and aroused unionist community.

Mr Sands's political handlers not say, contrary to what they say before, that he will not resign the seat before his death from starvation, if it comes to that. The House of Commons would move at once, that is before the Easter recess, to unseat him. That would be an entirely proper thing to do since he has concluded from attending the House for the duration of this parliament. It is also better that if he encompasses his own death, those who will exploit it should be denied whatever extra advantage they might get out of his formally representing a parliamentary constituency at the time.

For the Government two problems, one of them immedi-

ate, are intensified. The present hunger strike in the Maze is made harder to manage. It can no longer be assumed that the Provisional prisoners' demand for political status and the means they choose for enforcing it do not engage the emotions of the greater part of the nationalist community in Ulster. Even so, to yield to the demand would be fatal to the Government's authority. The best it can do is to repeat, with more finesse this time, and in less favourable circumstances, the procedure by which it weathered the same storm before Christmas: to offer concessions on the particulars of the prison regime without conceding any matter of principle.

Looking a bit farther ahead, the Government must surely now conclude (although it may wish to await next month's local elections in the province before saying so) that the people of Northern Ireland are so far polarized as to render useless any early revival of the attempt to introduce provincial institutions acceptable to the leaders of both communities. The IRA by its sustained killing and its manipulation of its prisoners' protest and Mr Paisley by his thunderous invocation of the ghost of Sir Edward Carson have between them seen to that. Meanwhile salvation through exploratory collaboration with Mr Haughhey is a very long way off, if it is there at all.

There is no early alternative to administration of the province within the United Kingdom in the interests of all its people. The duty could be more confidently fulfilled if the Government were to give more thought to normalizing the administrative and legislative arrangements, and less sign of wishfully thinking that there is some internal or external "solution" for disposing of the problem if only we all looked hard enough.

## TO COMMAND THE EARTH ORBIT

The technical difficulties that have already caused America's new shuttle-orbiter spacecraft to be three years behind schedule were still at work yesterday nine minutes before the launch was cancelled at Cape Canaveral. The last space spectacular in the Apollo series of manned spaceflights was six years ago, when the first and only collaborative Soviet-American venture was achieved with the link up of an Apollo-Soyuz spacecraft. Three years earlier the American Government had decided in favour of a different type of space transporter capable of ferrying people between earth and space in a vehicle that combined the features of an aeroplane and a spacecraft. Its most important characteristics were an ability to return to earth by landing on an extended aircraft runway, and to be overhauled and reused as many as 50 times. The first of the shuttle-orbiter family the Columbia, was launched in space last autumn more than two years late. Further technical setbacks delayed the next flight until this month.

Yet the concept of the space shuttle is a bold one on which the United States has based its hopes of recovering the lead it held over the Soviet Union in the sixties, with its manned space programme. The construction of a fleet of vehicles to be

floated repeatedly between earth and space was regarded a decade ago as a fairly modest technological advance over the rockets and space capsules which had taken astronauts to the moon. Experience has proved otherwise: and the miscalculation is reflected in the costs that have risen from an estimated \$5,000 million to nearly \$10,000 million. Even so, a successful shuttle flight tomorrow should be the first of a series of journeys over the next 15 years, which will mark a new era of military, commercial and scientific use of space. It will then have become something of a commonplace, and technical misjudgment about how long it would take to produce the new type of high pressure rocket motor, or to manufacture the 35,000 miles forming the heat shield will all have been forgiven and forgotten.

But it is the commitment of the United States Department of Defence to this programme which has kept the shuttle alive. Were it not for its importance to defence, as a vehicle to collect reconnaissance, to position satellites and to monitor possible future Salt agreements, the enterprise would have already foundered in Congress on account of its cost. As it is, the size of the original fleet of spacecraft has been cut back as part of the overall contraction of the aerospace budget. It is easier now to see, with hindsight, that

while the Russians are pursuing a single-minded aim to build operational space platforms in earth orbit, the American approach to manned flight, which landed the Apollo crews on the moon, may have been more visionary, but was also less useful for military purposes. There may be considerable scientific and commercial potential in shuttle flights, but it will be military plans which dominate the next phase, and as far as the United States Defence Department is concerned, earth orbit is about to become another theatre for routine operations.

There has been no secret about the matter, since the topic has been emphasized repeatedly in Congress. This has not gone unnoticed in Moscow, where the Soviet leaders have protested against the development of the American space shuttle, and the last round of abortive Salt II negotiations argued that its development was an act of provocation. Since the characteristics of the spaceplane as a giant cargo carrier, capable of accommodating single objects up to thirty tons and placing them in orbit, have been widely publicized, the Soviet reaction may be understandable. Having gained command of the earth orbit with the remarkable Salyut space stations the Soviet Union is now about to lose its advantage; and it would rather not do so.

## NO PLACES FOR FACES

More loyal heart beats in Britain than that of Mr Michael Leacher, MP. When the buzz is used and caps are flung into the air, his backbencher's cloth cap is as high as any. Nor does he like to see others baffled in expressing their own loyalty. The textile workers of Oldham West, rears swelling with sentiments like his own, want to give shape to their feelings by manufacturing T-shirts printed with portraits of the Prince of Wales and Lady Diana Spencer. But the Lord Chamberlain has announced that this particular display of loyalty would not be welcomed by the palace.

Blow the palace, says loyalty, are democratic royalists here who is Prince Charles to have references about the way we wish him well? Like an Ulsterman adding new dimensions to the concept of loyal dissent, Mr Leacher has written to incite Her Majesty's Secretary of State for industry to join his rebellion and "tear the textile workers to ignore the royal prohibition. He is specially concerned that the aid in portrait T-shirts may ass from the lean and hungry Oldham to the prosperous and opportunistic textile workers of

the original prohibition had been couched in the form of a request rather than a prohibition, they might never have been as high as any. Nor does he like to see others baffled in expressing their own loyalty. The textile workers of Oldham West, rears swelling with sentiments like his own, want to give shape to their feelings by manufacturing T-shirts printed with portraits of the Prince of Wales and Lady Diana Spencer. But the Lord Chamberlain has announced that this particular display of loyalty would not be welcomed by the palace.

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shape the thought that breasts swelling with whatever sentiments should not have as their sole covering the image of the happy pair. But textiles generally are seen to create risks of indignities. Faces are allowed only on headscarves and tea-towels, for reasons having more to do with custom than logic.

A hundred years ago it was all far more lax. Advertisers used the royal insignia and even pictures of the Queen herself to suggest that their wares were of quality. Their cheek seems comical to modern eyes. But although Queen Victoria still suffers the same indignities in television commercials, few would wish to see living members of the Royal Family treated in the same way. Our narrower attitude harks back to a still earlier age, as is shown by the Lord Chamberlain's grave insistence that royal insignia should not be used on flags. What if the flag was mistaken for the Prince's personal standard? Endless muddle might arise if people thought he was actually present. In this we hear an echo of the time when heraldry mattered, and blood might flow over the impudent misappropriation of a quartering.

The inherent relationship between freedom and material circumstances has been defined by the German poet, Georg Herwegh, some 150 years ago: "Brecht das Doppelgehoerz! Brecht die Not der Tyrannen! Brecht die Tyrannen der Not! Brecht die Freiheit, Freiheit Brot!" (Break the double-yoke into pieces! Break the misery of tyranny! Break the tyranny of misery! Bread is freedom, freedom is bread.) Yours faithfully, J. W. BRUEGEL, 21 Connaught Drive, NW11 April 8.

## Priorities in the national investment programme

From Mr Edward du Cann, MP for Taunton (Conservative). Sir, The House of Commons Treasury Select Committee did not only urge in its latest report that the decline in capital spending relative to current spending should be halted. The committee recommended that this trend should be reversed and that Government should raise significantly the proportion of public investment within the total of public expenditure from its present low level. The committee pointed out that an outstanding feature of our economy in recent years has been the decline in public-sector capital expenditure, both absolutely in volume terms and as a share of total public expenditure. The figures and the percentages are striking indeed. Fixed capital expenditure (at 1980 survey prices) amounted to £13,500m in 1975-76 and £9,930m in 1980-81. As a percentage of total expenditure these sums represent 19.4 per cent and 12.5 per cent respectively. The decline is forecast to continue, albeit on a more modest scale, into 1981-82.

The Government White Paper on public expenditure, which was debated in the House of Commons yesterday (April 9) lays emphasis in paragraph 22 on the need for efficiency in public spending. This good intention needs to be built upon as a matter of urgency.

Readers of The Times will no doubt have been shocked by your correspondent, Mr Hennessy's account (April 7) of the evidence given to the House of Commons Public Accounts Committee last Monday by the Comptroller and Auditor General, which indicated that the processes of internal audit in the government service are regarded as a mere "check and balance" by Sir Geoffrey Rayer, working on a part-time basis and with a skeleton staff, has been tireless and effective in discovering economies to be made within the government service—without loss of efficiency or service to the public. It is disappointing that Britain's civil servants, now clamouring for increased remuneration, apparently put efficiency and economy so low in their scale of priorities.

The reality is that for many years we have been apallingly wasteful for the way in which public money is spent. One example will suffice. Social service payments now account for some £770m per annum, more than a quarter of the total budget. It is well known that our system of transfer payments is grossly inefficient. The United Kingdom is among the most costly, the most complex and the most difficult to understand of any in the Western world.

Furthermore, we cannot ever be certain that the maximum help is going to be given to the many of our citizens in need. I remember reporting to the House of Commons as Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee a few years ago the considered opinion of the committee that the system was too complicated for the many of the clerks in the Department of Health and Social Security to be able to understand properly and explain to their customers. The Public Accounts Committee, year after year, report after report, gives other examples.

Thus there is, without any doubt, and while the possibility of any doubt, immense scope for spending the taxpayers' money better, for ensuring better value for money, for insuring that (welfare apart) the Government is a profitable force as a promoter of industry in the state sector, and a moderniser, and not least, in the nationalised industries.

There may well be, as your leading article (April 10) rightly in-

plies, scope for examining new methods of financing the nationalised industries to matter which the Treasury and Civil Service Committee is shortly to inquire into. It is gratifying that the Chancellor of the Exchequer has undertaken to which it stands as the ultimate guarantor. It will only retain the capability to take spending options to which elements of risk or unquantifiable gain attach if its entire economic programme is underwritten by a substantial new inflow of revenue.

Revenue income of the scale required can only be achieved by raising the targets for the realization of public-sector assets themselves from around £1,000m per annum to £2bn in each of the remaining years of the present Parliament.

The techniques to attain these results are varied. They include further measures of privatization; the increased use of sale and lease-back of public-sector fixed assets; employing convertible debentures secured on assets to raise money in the market while providing for automatic privatization by conversion into shares when the conditions are ripe; the sale of equity shares; and the straightforward sale to the private sector of viable sections of nationalized enterprises.

Not only should these measures guarantee higher investment levels than the present level, but they also avoid the public-sector borrowing requirement, but they will also avoid the demonstrated incapacity of governments to pick "winners". As Sir Keith Joseph pointed out, it is currently the losers who pick winners.

It is not insignificant that, as the given voices of the capital spenders in volume, the holderness of nationalized industry chairmen in demanding a halt to the privatization programme central to the Government's election commitments increases. Yours faithfully, WALTER GOLDSMITH, Director General, Institute of Directors, 116 Pall Mall, SW1, April 10.

From Mr B. Barker, Sir, The Comptroller and Auditor General has drawn attention to the lack of appreciation in the Civil Service of the potential benefits of an efficient, modern internal audit service.

Sir John Herbecq, at the Civil Service Department, has said that the problem is not so much lack of numbers but lack of training and professionalism.

In certain departments of state, notably the Ministry of Defence, there is a clear and welcome movement in the direction of professionalizing staff.

I suggest that a quick, practical and inexpensive contribution to the solution of the internal audit problem in the Civil Service would be to put selected executive officers and all new principals or assistant principals in the administrative class through the professional examinations of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators. These men and women could then be seconded to internal audit as part of their career development.

The courses, colleges, examinations and everything required are readily available without additional charge to the public purse. All that is lacking is a sufficient will to get the right people qualified and put to work. Yours faithfully, B. BARKER, Secretary and Chief Executive, The Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators, 16 Park Crescent, W1, April 9.

## Holbein painting enigma

From Mr John Rowlands, Sir, May I refer to Mr John Fletcher's letter to you of March 28 occasioned by the acquisition by the National Gallery of Scotland of Holbein's splendid religious painting of "The Old and the New Law". While naturally, as a layman, I cannot question the scientific basis of his analysis of the tree rings of the wood on which Holbein painted this work, his application of these findings to the question of the date of the painting does seem rather incautious.

This analysis, as I understand it, can, if the wood furnishes enough evidence, give us the "felling date" of the tree, from which one can assume approximately the date after which an artist could have painted on the panel. Unfortunately Mr Fletcher's assumptions that have led him to propose that the painting was executed by Holbein in 1526 in Antwerp (en route from Basel to England) are undermined by the evidence.

In its iconography the painting is Holbein's interpretation of a new religious subject, evidently devised by Lucas Cranach to illustrate Luther's Pauline doctrine of justification by Faith with its antithesis between law (Law), which leads to judgment, and grace (Grace), which leads to redemption through Jesus Christ. Extant paintings of this subject from Cranach's workshop date from 1529 onwards, and Cranach also produced a woodcut

at about the same date for dissemination to a wider public. Stylistically the painting is, in my view, more likely to have been executed in the period c1532 to c1535 rather than earlier. But the fact that it is a Lutheran picture is not in principle a valid argument for its being painted by someone in England during the artist's first visit here, 1526-1528. For at that time the religious situation in court circles was evidently more fluid than Mr Fletcher assumes. There were powerful individuals at the court who were toying with ideas of reform. For instance, Sir Henry Guildford, Controller of the Household and Master of the Revels, an important courtier, had contacts with William Tyndale and Guildford was an early English patron of Holbein whose majestic portrait, now at Windsor Castle, he painted in 1527.

Despite the strong episcopal opposition, the supporters at court of reform gradually increased their influence, and after the fall of Wolsey on October 9, 1529, they came out into the open. The leaders were the Goswold-educated Anne Boleyn and the rising Thomas Cromwell. So it would, in my view, have been quite possible for a powerful courtier to have ordered the painting during Holbein's first stay and even more likely both on stylistic and historical grounds, during the first part of his second stay in England.

Yours faithfully, JOHN ROWLANDS, 21 St Paul's Place, NW1, April 7.

From Mrs Rosalind Hawkes, Sir, Lord Kenner and Alec Clifton-Taylor have both written (March 23 and 26) objecting to the proposed housing cooperative scheme at the south-east end of Beverley Minster. I write as someone keenly interested both in the suitable preservation of our architectural heritage and in the continuation of urban communities in a sympathetic environment.

The two-storey houses planned at Beverley adjoin a nineteenth-century street which is being rehabilitated by the cooperative architects, York University Design Unit, who have a good record for small, sensitively designed housing schemes. The houses are to take up a small part only of the pre-

sent open space, are few in number and are intended to make the housing cooperative into an economically workable size. Only the lowest part of the south-east end of Beverley Minster will be obscured from the distant south-east view; from the true south the view will be almost clear.

The project was an exciting challenge: to provide a much-needed extra housing in a declining though still vigorous community, and to complement the nearby outstanding Gothic building without ruining the modern open view from the south-east. I feel it is time that the very positive visual and social advantages of the scheme were publicly commended.

Yours faithfully, ROSALIND HAWKES, 36 St Paul's Square, York, April 5.

## The other face of national service

From Mr David K. Llewellyn, Sir, I read with interest that Sir Hugh Fraser (article, April 9) believes that the reintroduction of national service would instil in the youth of the country "a new national sense of purpose, heroism and national involvement". That the treatment worked in the case of Sir Hugh is clear; he has become a politician. If this were the general effect, perhaps we should be sceptical of the virtues of the policy.

It seems irrational for Sir Hugh to seek to solve social and economic problems by means of military measures. Indeed, he admits that the "objectives would be largely civil": can he really suppose that the military, essentially violent, will fulfil the idea of being granted "thousands of millions" of pounds, not to spend on military needs, but to train young people without any sense of military commitment or suitability to the military life, for "largely civil" reasons?

In view of the vast cost in time and resources, they must feel that the real defensive function of the Armed Forces was being ignored, and their own commitment assumed upon. I doubt very much that those who spent time in training the young Sir Hugh to regard to be a hush on Salisbury Plain had the slightest intention of giving him "a sense of... national involvement".

Sir Hugh's comments about the role of the trade unions in his plans to use recruits to clean up our inner cities are very revealing, I suspect that lurking behind talk of "demanding from the unions" a full acceptance of inescapable realities is an "improved industrial structure" is something rather sinister.

Can we believe that the military establishment, whatever the political views of those who compose it, regard it as any part of their task to be a weapon in the fight against the power of the trade unions, the "spacks of the kind of uncritical faith in the political importance of the Armed Forces, which is even now giving rise to military coups d'état and totalitarian regimes in the Third World. Sir Hugh may be concerned with the military, but he is not, and the military may wonder whether it is not to be for the sake of extending beyond its proper sphere and into civilian life the mentality of the military recruit.

The mentality, as Sir Hugh well knows, is one of unquestioning obedience and the suppression of initiative in favour of that of one's superiors. In civilian life such an attitude is conducive only to acquiescence in tyranny. If Sir Hugh would spend the years of his service have done him harm, I shall not dispute the point; but it is not the qualities of the recruit that have made him a citizen of a free country.

DAVID K. LLEWELLYN, Peterborough, Cambridge, April 8.

## Multiracial community

From Mr A. G. Marden, Sir, Up here in Tottenham I have neighbours below and to one side who are of West Indian origin and to the other side who are Irish. Further down the street are people of Greek, Indian and Jewish backgrounds.

Come the summer, when it seems everybody is improving some part of their home, I swap my chisels and power tools for their ladders and saws and brushes. When somebody is changing an engine on his car, he can count on the loan of a work lamp or a strong arm if he needs it.

My neighbour below has difficulty reading her electricity meters, so I read them for her. She cooks a mean brandy cake.

These are all tentative steps toward building a community. Naturally there are areas of sensitivity and suspicion. This is to be expected, and it is not in principle a valid argument for its being painted by someone in England during the artist's first visit here, 1526-1528.

There is not, however, any talk of blood on the streets, repatriation, or race specific fertility rates. There is a recognition that Mr Powell, who commutes between a cosy house in Westminster and a Northern Irish constituency should, by his public pronouncements, be jeopardizing these first steps toward a true multiracial community.

Yours sincerely, TONY MARDEN, 149 Varsity Road, N15.

## Crime and punishment

From Mr Giles Playfair, Sir, A large notice on display in the Tube trains warns us that London Transport will "press for maximum penalties for anyone committing an assault on members of the staff".

While saying amen to that, one nevertheless detects in it an uncomfortable note of discrimination. What about the passengers? What sort of penalties will London Transport press for in cases of assault on them? Moderate penalties? Or no penalties? After all, the staff are paid reasonably well for whatever risk they may run, whereas the poor passengers pay for it at an exorbitant rate—some 60 times in excess of the prewar price.

Yours etc, GILES PLAYFAIR, 126 Cranbrook Road, W4, April 9.

## Computer sensibility

From Mr John Turing, Sir, My late brother, Alan Turing, a mathematical genius and a founding father of the modern computer, remarked some thirty years ago that he could foresee the day when a computer could write a sonnet "but it might not be a very good sonnet". This was duly reported in The Times and caused quite a stir at the time. The qualification "not a very good sonnet" may be of some consolation to Mr Levin (article, April 2).

Yours faithfully, JOHN TURING, 158 Prince George Avenue, Southgate, N14.

## he right to work

From Professor J. W. Bruegel, Sir, In spite of all his eloquence, Bernard Levin is at least a hundred years behind the times with his theory (April 8) that "it is the business of the state to do no more than hold the ring for the activities of its citizens". His attempts to divide the notion of the "right to work" fall flat in view of the United Nations International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, ratified by the United Kingdom on May 20, 1976. Article

of this document states unambiguously: "The present and future generations have the right to work, which includes the right to the opportunity to gain his living by work which he freely chooses or accepts, and will make appropriate steps to safeguard this right."

The next paragraph in article 6 indicates the steps to be taken under conditions safeguarding fundamental, political and economic freedoms to the individual. No less objectionable is Mr Levin's thesis, proclaimed "not before, that freedom has not got anything to do with material cir-

cumstances". The inherent relationship between freedom and material circumstances has been defined by the German poet, Georg Herwegh, some 150 years ago: "Brecht das Doppelgehoerz! Brecht die Not der Tyrannen! Brecht die Tyrannen der Not! Brecht die Freiheit, Freiheit Brot!" (Break the double-yoke into pieces! Break the misery of tyranny! Break the tyranny of misery! Bread is freedom, freedom is bread.) Yours faithfully, J. W. BRUEGEL, 21 Connaught Drive, NW11 April 8.

From Dr Ralph Horwitz, Sir, The common agricultural policy has no other rationale than to ensure the right to work for the political order of Europe against organized European farmers. The annual price increase that serves apparently to ensure the rights of such farmers to extend their output in due time have exactly the same disastrous consequences for such farmers themselves as British trade unionism to protect the "right to work" now having on employment prospects for British workers.

Three million unemployed in Britain as the consequence of obscurantist collective bargaining will, in the foreseeable future, be paralleled by a disaster to European agriculture from obscurantist collective marketing of the farm product. Yours truly, RALPH HORWITZ, Polytechnic of the South Bank, School of Management and Administrative Studies, Borough Road, SE1.

## Aspect of Beverley Minster

From Mrs Rosalind Hawkes, Sir, Lord Kenner and Alec Clifton-Taylor have both written (March 23 and 26) objecting to the proposed housing cooperative scheme at the south-east end of Beverley Minster. I write as someone keenly interested both in the suitable preservation of our architectural heritage and in the continuation of urban communities in a sympathetic environment.

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Yours faithfully, ROSALIND HAWKES, 36 St Paul's Square, York, April 5.



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## SPORT

## Cricket

## Gooch puts Croft to flight and gives Lloyd cause for concern

From John Woodcock  
Cricket Correspondent  
Kington, April 10

With Gooch in tremendous form, England started the fifth Test match against West Indies with unshakable confidence. On a pitch of surprising pace, they had taken 156 for three at tea, of which Gooch's share was 124 not out. Lloyd, by contrast, was seen doubting the wisdom of asking England to bat.

To keep the anti-apartheid demonstrators at bay, the police are present in strength. On this first day, at any rate, there has been hardly a placard to be seen. Gooch, with the exception of a couple of misfires, played an innings to compare with his 123 against West Indies at Lord's last June.

Lord's has been a cruel test of Gooch's nerves. In the 45th over, off 145 balls and at a total of 139, today's took 127 balls, coming in the 40th over out of the 45. He gave no place that went to hand and for the first time this winter he put the ball into the air, though not without finding his opening over.

After a lengthy discussion, involving Botham, Boycott, Gooch, Gower and the manager, they won the toss, to field. In an over or two of the first Test, Gooch could consider himself unlucky to be left out. At the end of the first Test, Gooch and Boycott were present to him.

In the West Indies side, Roberts and Gooch were the only batsmen to have opened the same. For Roberts, however, it was the mark of the end of the Test. He came on after 50 minutes, but neither Gooch nor Boycott

was at full stretch for a whole over. Gooch had Gooch in enough trouble. He had to bat in his third over, but he had him out three times. First a snick went off the edge of his bat, then a catch, and the last ball of the over. Gooch almost pushed into the air, but he was not in the mood to cover drives in Croft's next.

This was splendid cricket, full of thrust and counter-thrust. When Gooch was out after bowling five overs, the batsmen had taken 139 runs. Boycott, having joined in the fun by then, looking for the ball to be in the air, square third man for four in successive balls.

In the second over this afternoon, with only one run added, Boycott was out in the new ball. Gooch, having been left out a little, in the old days, he would either not have played or he would have been behind the line. This is not to say that he has played less than very well.

In the 30th minute, Gooch made three. It was a good thing Gooch felt it his urgent duty to put his young partner at the end of the over, and he hoisted the hundred, with a remarkable stroke off a no-ball—a slash for six over second slip.

He had spent the minutes, pounding each bowler in turn. This left Lloyd to play himself in, quietly and in his own time, which he seemed to be doing well. He had been in the middle of the first Test, and he had been in the middle of the first Test, and he had been in the middle of the first Test.

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## Golf



Norman: failed putt may have been a disguised blessing.

## Putter serves Nicklaus all right in the end

From John Hennessy  
Golf Correspondent  
Augusta, April 10

Jack Nicklaus, who emerged from a lean period last year to win the United States Open and the PGA Championship, was in the second round of the Masters, a title already five times his.

The threat was there from the start of an oppressively hot, still day. He might have been helped by a little breeze from the first, but should have been helped from the start of the second. After a conventional putt at the first, he put his putter to shame with a tee shot to within a foot or so of the 205 yards third.

The putter reassured itself at the eighth where it was called into play. He had been in the middle of the first Test, and he had been in the middle of the first Test, and he had been in the middle of the first Test. He had been in the middle of the first Test, and he had been in the middle of the first Test, and he had been in the middle of the first Test.

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back from four down with four to play to beat Fald in the semi-final and hold on against Lyle on the last green in the final.

He has the game to proper here because there is no danger of his booming tee-shots: running out of the hole, he has a chance to reach three of the par fives, measuring in succession 525, 465, 500, 500 and 500 yards.

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## Football

## Spurs and Ipswich to reach final on merit

By Norman Fox  
Football Correspondent

Ipswich and Tottenham have reached the final of the FA Cup on merit. Tottenham, who were the defending champions, were defeated by Ipswich in the semi-final.

This most severe and, regrettably, too often most disappointing round is no easier to predict now than it was a month ago. Ipswich, who were the defending champions, were defeated by Tottenham in the semi-final.

At a more material level, the results today can be swayed less by the introduction of foreign players. One of the prime attractions of Ipswich is the prospect of Wembley being the first of a series of matches between Tottenham and Ipswich.

The Dutchmen have put the final on a level that is not beyond the grasp of Tottenham. They have a chance to reach the final, but they have a chance to reach the final, but they have a chance to reach the final.

Three league defeats in four matches and a UEFA Cup defeat against Cologne, in which more chances were given than Tottenham have had in the FA Cup, have not helped their cause.

Wolves, who have been given no pause since beating Tottenham in the semi-final, have a chance to reach the final, but they have a chance to reach the final, but they have a chance to reach the final.

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## Vital points at stake in relegation issue

By Norman Fox  
Football Correspondent

Upgraded by the FA Cup but not without consequence in matters of relegation and the pursuit of European football, today's league programme could be revealing. Norwich City and Brighton are not thought of as difficult away games.

Since United tend to draw with most people, this may be as much as Coventry achieve at Highbury. Coventry are at home to Liverpool, but Norwich City's game at Everton and Brighton's match at Middlesbrough with considerable interest. Perhaps Brighton have a better chance than Middlesbrough's strong home record.

The financial assistance that comes from European football is still in the minds of Northampton Forest who are at home to Liverpool, themselves certain of a UEFA Cup place but still hoping for more. Forest's captain, McGovern, returns after two months and Ward is preferred to the leading striker, John Aldridge, as Alan Kennedy has a broken wrist.

Manchester City's challenge for a first division place would be greatly improved by beating West Ham United. The problem may be West Ham's earnest desire to secure the championship as soon as possible.

In the third division, the game between the leaders, Rotherham United, and Charlton Athletic, level on points but behind on goal difference, is a crucial one. Rotherham have not lost at home while Charlton have the best away record in the division.

Barnsley put pressure on both sides by beating Rotherham over Easter, although it was not until the 75th minute that Cooper's header brought the south Yorkshire club their eighth successive win.

Doncaster moved back up to third place in the fourth division after two goals by Dawson had given them a 2-1 victory over Stockport County. Their first goal came two minutes after the Doncaster half-time break, when a header by Williams gave them a 1-0 lead.

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# THE TIMES

## BUSINESS NEWS

Personal  
investment and  
finance,  
pages 18 and 19

### Stock markets

FT Ind 551.3 up 1.5  
FT 100 69.68 up 0.31

### Sterling

\$ 2.1820 down 130 pts  
Index 99.2 unchanged

### Dollar

Index 101.5 up 0.1  
DM 2.1527 up 112 pts

### Gold

\$ 492.50 down 56

### Money

3 mth sterling 12 1/2-12 3/4  
3 mth Euro \$ 16-15 1/4  
6 mth Euro \$ 16-15 1/2

### IN BRIEF

## Accountants study closure of Bristol port

Bristol City Council has called a firm of international accountants to undertake a special appraisal of the Port of Bristol, including an assessment of the possibility of closure of the port.

Part of the brief will be to calculate the cost of shutting down the port operation, including the cost of the Port of Bristol Authority's share of the cost of the port.

The move comes after the loss of £25m over the last four years. Its traffic has been sharply cut by the recession.

### Oil price up £176

Oil is raising the price of its Metro by £176 to £3,730 a ton tomorrow. Other light oils will also rise by between 70p and 5 p.c.

### Joint oil for BP

BP yesterday denied that it stopped taking oil from Iraq because of a dispute over premium payments. Company said.

### Electricity take less

Electricity take less receipts by £9m to £25m in March, lowest level since June and the outcome for April expected to be lower still. Seasonal drop is not unusual in March, but the competition from coal savings and budgeted spending have exacerbated the situation.

### Cuts tanker staff

BP is to cut the 1,550-strong staff of its United Kingdom fleet by 210 as a result of depressed demand and the sale of some of its ships. BP has also said that seeking reductions of 307 in the tanker fleet officer.

### F hearing adjourned

House of Commons has adjourned for an order to the separate meetings of the two Houses of Parliament. A Savoy Hotel in an attempt to control the group has adjourned until Tuesday.

### Rate lower

Aggressive bidding for the new three-month bills, a further fall in rates, average rate of discount at a new three-month bill allocated fell from 11.43 to 10.95 p.c.

### Clearance

Industrial approval has been given to permit the unit to be used in the trade.

### Personal investment and finance, page 18

### Street higher

Dow Jones industrial average closed 1.44 points up on 1,000.27. The S&P 500 was 142. The £ was 0.554986.

## Hedderwick is 'hammered' hours before merger with Exchange chairman's firm

By Catherine Gunn and Richard Allen

Hedderwick's gilded stockbroker's firm, was hammered at 5 pm yesterday only hours before it was due to merge with Quilter's Hilson Goodison, whose senior partner is Mr Nicholas Goodison, the chairman of the Stock Exchange.

Hedderwick was unable to meet its liabilities when its bank would not honour around £5m worth of cheques which it made out in settlement of its daily gilded business. However, its net liabilities are expected to be considerably less than £5m.

The decision to declare Hedderwick in default and forbid it to continue trading was taken yesterday afternoon by a full meeting of the Stock Exchange Council.

It hammered the normal rule that hedderwicks have to be announced on the Stock Exchange floor within trading hours. Mr Wallis Hunt, Hedderwick's senior partner, had already ceased trading at 3 pm in line with the original merger terms, although by that stage it was already clear that the merger at least was in jeopardy.

The first hint of trouble came when Quilter's Hilson Goodison announced the deferral of the merger yesterday pending clarification of certain transactions carried out by clients of Hedderwick especially during the last two weeks.

Quilter had asked Touche Ross, the accountants, to examine Hedderwick's business in preparation for the merger. Touche Ross discovered problems at Hedderwick yesterday morning.

Hedderwick is said to be owed between £1m and £2m by an unnamed firm of fund managers who either cannot or will not pay the debt.

## 2,100 more jobs to go at Lucas

By Clifford Webb

Midlands Industrial Correspondent

Lucas Group has confirmed details of its plans to make 2,100 more employees redundant. Sixteen West Midlands plants serving the motor industry are affected, and one small factory, and two warehouses are to close. It is the second jobs reduction in nine months.

Further redundancy announcements are expected shortly at Lucas, Lucas CCA and Lucas Batteries bringing the latest batch of job losses up to the 4,500 forecast by Mr Geoffrey Messervy, the Lucas chairman. He told shareholders last month that rapid action was being taken to halt losses which reached £27m in the second half of last year.

More than 3,000 employees lost their jobs in July last year reducing the labour force in Lucas Electrical, the motor electronics subsidiary, to around 14,000.

Action is being taken to improve productivity, to cut costs and introduce more flexibility.

Lucas is expected to repeat its tactic of last year, and offer the union a 5 p.c. cost-cutting "wage increase" for 1981.

The need to shrink the labour force is blamed on the continuing sharp decline in United Kingdom truck and car sales and the price cutting in export markets.

## Summonses for Argyll directors

By Peter Wainwright

The directors of Argyll Foods, the group headed by Mr James Gulliver, which has grown through 10 takeovers in two years partly financed by four cash calls on shareholders, have received summonses issued on the information of the Department of Trade.

The allegation is that having

Hedderwick's gilded department has caused it serious embarrassment twice before, with two Stock Exchange inquiries in as many years.

Last year the former head of Hedderwick's gilded side was expelled from the Stock Exchange after the first inquiry. He was said to have acted to the benefit of certain discretionary accounts.

Earlier this year Hedderwick was cleared by the Stock Exchange of irregularities in gilded stock lending.

All 22 of Hedderwick's partners are personally liable for the firm's debts, which may scale down to less than £1m net. If they are unable to meet the full amount, the Stock Exchange emergency fund of £1.4m is available to meet investors' claims. Jobbers have no claim on the fund, although they would become prime creditors in a liquidation.

Merger talks between Hedderwick and Quilter began in earnest at the end of February. The merger was to have been effective from today, the start of Quilter's financial year, and 11 of the 22 Hedderwick partners would have joined the Quilter partnership.

Mr Richard Blaxland, the managing partner of Quilter, was unable to comment last night on reports that business transacted in the market by Hedderwick staff yesterday had been put in Quilter's name.

Although a small two-man partnership was hammered earlier this year, Hedderwick is the first big firm to be declared in default and prevented from trading since the stock market collapse of 1974. Then, a number of firms went to the wall, including Milton, Butler & Priest, and Chapman & Rowe.

The term hammered comes from pre-war days when the

chairman of the Stock Exchange would draw attention to the impending announcement of a default by walking onto the market floor and banging a gavel.

Now, however, such announcements are made during market hours by the sound of three bells over the market's broadcasting system. Under Stock Exchange rules hedderwicks should normally be made in market hours to ensure all operators are aware of the decision.

But improved communications make these rules superfluous and they are often waived. Announcements made outside hours are posted in the market place.

The Stock Exchange announced that, accordingly, the company and the following were in default: Messrs Wallis Glyn Gunthorpe Hunt, Robin Hugh Althaus, John Montague Anthony Booth, John Byrnes, William Stanley Callingham, Ian Melville Calvercross, Harold Thomson Cowie, Christopher Hugh Curtis, John Leigh Garner, Peter Winwood Garra, John George John Grumbar, Peter Charles Hicks, Peter Bryant Hillier, Peter Holdsworth Hunt, Peter Campbell Kay, Timothy Yezman Lardner, Simon Patrick Meredith Hardy, Charles Henry Noble, Anthony Daniel Harry Sinclair, Sir Peter Troubridge, David Harold Watson, and John David Welchman.

Quilter was not going to take on Hedderwick's gilded team with the rest of the firm. In January five senior equity analysts left the firm to join other firms.

They included Mr Stewart Walsley, the top-ranked chemicals analyst, who joined W. Greenwell and the financial and resources teams.

## Electra aims to raise £20m in tax scheme

By Bryan Appleby

Electra Investment Trust is attempting to raise £20m from private investors who are willing to put their money into small businesses.

In a scheme devised by stockbrokers L. Messel & Co, Electra is offering £20m worth of loan stock through a new subsidiary known as Electra Risk Capital, specifically designed to exploit a tax concession in the 1980 Budget which allows individuals to write-off losses on small company investments against their income tax.

But EIRC has specifically rejected the idea of using the concession in the last Budget which allows up to £10,000 of investment in a business start-up to be claimed against income tax.

Mr Michael Stoddart, EIRC chairman, comments: "It is evident that the conditions applicable to the proposed relief are extremely restrictive."

Should the conditions be significantly relaxed during the passage of the Finance Bill through Parliament, the company will reconsider the position.

EIRC will be a wholly-owned subsidiary of EIT. Applications for the loan stock will be accepted from April 24 and minimum subscription is £10,000. Successful applicants will be awarded loan stocks which will earn interest at the rate of 3 1/2 p.c. below the overnight bank rate. Only half of the payment for the stock will be called in the first year and half in the second.

On each investment EIT will have the option of taking a stake of up to 15 p.c. of the EIRC stake.

Mr John MacGregor, Under Secretary of State for Industry, yesterday acknowledged that the offer is a useful way of testing the willingness of private investors to invest in small companies.

Electra and Messel admit they are entirely in the dark about the possible success of the offer as it depends entirely on private individuals rather than institutions. If less than £7.5m of stock is applied for, the plan will be abandoned.

It is not known to what extent the tax concession—Section 37 of the Finance Act 1980—has been used by small investors as a protection against losses.

## Overseas aid sought for electricity generating mill in shallow waters

Offshore energy is blowing in the wind

Britain is seeking international collaboration to test a huge electricity generating windmill sited in shallow offshore waters.

The Central Electricity Generating Board, anxious to defray the cost of a prototype commercial-sized design, is discussing proposals with the Paris-based International Energy Agency.

Land-based windmills are already planned. The CEGB is to test a small, 22-kilowatt machine in Carmarthen Bay and hopes to order a larger 1-megawatt proven design to operate from 1985. Eventually it plans to add nine others to form a cluster.

In Orkney, the North of Scotland Hydro Board has ordered a 3-megawatt machine, which will provide sufficient electricity for 1,000 of the island's 8,000 customers. It also recently ordered a small, 22-kilowatt machine to serve a farm on South Ronaldsay.

But land-based machines are criticised for the noise that they are both noisy and unsightly. The best areas for high winds are often also areas of outstanding natural beauty.

In the early 1950s the CEGB's predecessor authority proposed building a prototype wind generator on the Llyn Peninsula in North Wales.

Objections came from the National Parks Commission, the National Trust, Preservation Society and the Council for the Preservation of Rural Wales, and the project was dropped.

Siting a wind generator offshore could solve many of the environmental objections, although it would raise some new ones.

No sites are yet formally under consideration. Ideally they would be away from shipping lanes and fishing zones, far enough from the shore to prevent the environmental hazards that they would produce on the coast but not too far to raise the cost of laying transmission lines to the mainland.

The Wash might be one area which would fit the bill, but would be sure to encounter objections.

The cost is bound to be considerably higher than the £56m for the Orkney

## Confusion in markets over monetary policy course

### US prime rates raised

From Frank Vogel

Washington, April 10

The Chase Manhattan Bank of New York and Manufacturers Trust today raised their prime lending rates to 17 1/2 p.c. from 17 p.c., amid confusion in the financial markets over the course of America's monetary policies.

The outlook for United States fiscal policies is also confused now as the two houses of Congress have moved in radically different directions on President Reagan's budget.

The budget committee of the House of Representatives has cut the President's tax reduction plan sharply and it has altered spending policies to produce a budget for next year with an estimated deficit of \$25,000m (£11,425m).

The original plan called for a \$45,000m deficit but it had to be cut to \$25,000m to meet the defence spending and sought to push through a programme in the Senate budget committee with a \$60,000m deficit. Three Republicans felt this figure was

too great and voted with the Democrats to defeat the plan that had substantial White House backing.

The front pages of American newspapers today described the Senate action as a blow to Mr Reagan, but the White House moved swiftly to whip Republican senators into line and ensure that efforts began to defeat the tax changes proposed by the House of Representatives.

The prime rate increases come after recent rises in other short-term rates, as the Federal Reserve Board has indicated a desire to push rate levels up slightly.

The Fed's actions have confused the markets and there are many different opinions to be heard on Wall Street about what is happening. The United States Treasury is known to want a money policy that is even tighter and perhaps the Fed is responding to this call.

Adding to the confusion has been the erratic course of the narrow monetary aggregates,

with very sharp declines seen in M1A, but significant rises evident in M1B. The divergence has to do with new regulations permitting interest to be earned on current accounts.

Latest money supply figures show that M1A was up \$1,800m, and M1B was up \$3,200m in the week to April 1.

Loan demand is weak and may continue to fall in line with what many economists expect will be a second quarter of very sluggish economic activity in the United States. These factors should prompt a decline in interest rates.

Speculation about the Fed taking a harder line may be exaggerated and today's prime rate rises could prove to be an aberration in a general downward trend.

Rates may move down again shortly. However by the third quarter there could be a sharp upward shift as the federal government enters the markets to raise substantial sums and as the economy starts to grow.

## Criteria set for steel chief's pay

By Peter Hill

Industrial Editor

Details of the standard of performance which will determine the size of payments made by the Government to the services of Mr Ian MacGregor, chairman of British Steel Corporation will be published next week. The amount could be £1.8m.

This criterion comes from the review committee almost a year after the Government recruited Mr MacGregor from Lazard Frères, the American investment bankers, for a three year term in a deal which attracted considerable controversy.

Under its arrangement, the Government paid Lazard Frères £575,000 with provision for pro-rata refunds if Mr MacGregor fails to complete the full three-year term.

The American company will retain a minimum of £225,000 of that payment and the balance of £350,000 will be made retrospectively up to a maximum of £1.5m.

Mr Norman Tebbit, Minister for Industry, in a written Parliamentary answer yesterday, said that a document setting out the criteria would be placed in the House of Commons Library next week.

It is expected to cover the corporation's performance under Mr MacGregor in meeting annual cash and profit targets, the size of the United Kingdom market, export performance and improvement in labour relations and productivity.

In the last financial year British Steel lost an estimated £660m and received more than



Mr MacGregor: payments could total £1.8m.

£1,000m of Government funds with a further £730m, earmarked for this year under its external financing limit.

Under the "survival plan" drawn up by Mr MacGregor, the labour force is being cut by a further 22,000, plants are being closed, steelmaking capacity is being reduced to 14.4 million tonnes, senior civil servants and workers have agreed to a six month pay freeze.

The strategy will be reviewed this summer, and if plants fail to meet objectives, the corporation is expected to press ahead with further closures.

Last month the Government announced that the committee to assess the corporation's performance would be led by Mr John Gardiner, chief executive of the Lazard Group, supported by two prominent businessmen.

The Government said yesterday that it would be providing details of British Steel Corporation Liaison Services, a company previously owned by BSC (International) which will be used temporarily to hold the assets of companies involved in attempts to rationalize the engineering steel sector.

## Raper 50p St Piran bid defies City panel

By Michael Prest

Mr James Raper, the controversial Far East financier, is defying the Takeover Panel and the City authorities again to bid 50p a share for control of St Piran, the mining and house-building group.

His bid, which has been made through Financial Network Guarantees (FNG), a small licensed dealer, is 35p a share less than the price set by the Takeover Panel last June. It is 13p a share below the price at which St Piran shares were suspended in May, 1980.

FNG is acting in behalf of Gasco Investments (Netherlands), a subsidiary of Gasco Investments, the Hongkong company controlled by Mr Raper. Gasco already holds 29.6 per cent of St Piran.

But last year's Takeover Panel investigation concluded that Mr Raper, along with several foreign nominee companies, formed a "concert party" which in fact controlled about 37 per cent of St Piran. At 30 p.c. or more a shareholder must, under the Takeover Panel rules, bid for the rest of a company.

Gasco has agreed to purchase 10.45 per cent of St Piran, which under the terms of the offer will set off an unconditional offer for the remainder of the equity.

The bid values St Piran at about £5.8m, compared with the £10.1m specified by the Takeover Panel and the £7.7m at which it was valued by the stock market when suspended.

The 50p offer is seen in the City as possibly just enough to attract shareholders locked in by the suspension.

FNG is not a member of the Licensed Dealers' Association and is not part of the Council for the Securities Industry. City sources pointed out that such a firm might not be worried about renewing its dealing licence, and therefore would not seek Department of Trade approval for its offer document.

The Takeover Panel will be considering how to deal with this latest flooding of its authority. But there appears to be no obstacle in law to prevent Mr Raper gaining control of St Piran if sufficient shareholders are prepared to sell.

## Petrol tax 'less now than in 1950'

By Melvyn Westlake

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor, said yesterday that the tax on petrol was now less in real terms than it was in 1950.

As a proportion of the total price of petrol, the tax was now lower than it was during the decade up to the oil crisis of 1973.

Sir Geoffrey, speaking at Oxford, Surrey, defended his decision to increase taxes on petrol and duty in the Budget.

These tax increases were both necessary and justified, he said, and it was legitimate to restore the proportion of tax as an incentive to energy conservation.

Before the Budget, the price of petrol in the United Kingdom was the lowest in the European Community, except for Germany. After the Budget the price came broadly into line with the rest of the Community.

Sir Geoffrey admitted that the higher duty would increase business costs, but the effect had to be set alongside the Budget's benefits for industry, he said.

He was answering criticisms raised by Conservative backbenchers as well as Opposition MPs who said that country people would be worse off than city dwellers.

Research suggested that rural motorists travel on average about 8 p.c. farther in a year than urban motorists; but the smoother nature of rural driving meant that their petrol consumption per mile could be significantly lower. This could more than cancel out the greater mileage, he said.

## Ford rejects Chrysler approach for merger

From Our US Economics Correspondent

Washington, April 10

The Ford Motor Company has flatly rejected an approach by the Chrysler Corporation for Ford to acquire Chrysler or enter a partnership.

Ford is also considering some form of profit sharing for its employees to secure wage moderation and is moving ahead in comprehensive partnership talks with Toyota. At a time when it is losing vast sums Ford has no wish to be burdened by Chrysler's problems.

But Chrysler's approach indicates that at least the corporation's directors may have concluded that they cannot hope to survive on their own. The company lost \$1,700m (£779.8m) last year. It has sought to tackle its problems in a fiercely independent manner, but its strategy has been developed.

Chrysler said the proposals were put by Salomon Brothers, which had approached or would soon approach every major car maker in the world, except General Motors, to inquire on a possible merger or similar arrangement.

Mr Philip Caldwell, chairman of Ford, stated today that the company had been asked to consider a merger or other similar arrangement with Chrysler, but the board had voted unanimously against such a venture.

Ford lost \$1,500m (£688m) last year and the company stated in a report to the Securities and Exchange Commission that it expects losses in the first quarter of this year to be greater than the \$316m (£144.9m) loss in the comparative 1980 period.

Ford's talks with Toyota, involving sources said, were covering everything from joint production and design to joint marketing and even to the possibility of Toyota's taking an equity stake in Ford. But there was no question of Toyota's taking a controlling interest.

Mr Frank Swoboda, a labour writer for The Washington Post, reported that Ford sources say the company is planning to provide employees with some form of employment security over the life of a new three-year wage contract. Both Ford and General Motors were developing "revolutionary offers", including profit sharing, to the United Automobile Workers Union in the wake of a strike for renewal next year.

A Ford spokesman said no decision on profit-sharing had been taken.

The union last month rejected Ford and GM efforts to force a revision of the present wage contracts, after it had agreed to wage reductions at Chrysler.

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ely Expt	48p to 323p	Fothergill & H	13p to 134p		
es & Newman	14p to 168p	Hongkong Rubber	37p to 912p		
ware	37p to 155p	Leifley PFC	12p to 158p		
ocomps	25p to 173p	Martin News	18p to 238p		
it B.	14p to 190p	Mercantile Bse	43p to 663p		

Is			
e Am Corp	31p to 635p	RTZ	10p to 476p
pton Gold	10p to 195p	Royal	17p to 386p
oss	27p to 555p	Standard Chrt'd	18p to 644p
Higgs & A	7p to 98p	Ultramar	10p to 478p



## PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

## Redundancy

## Why encourage such a spending spree?

Once upon a time redundancy was the sort of nasty accident which happened to other people; and long-term unemployment did not happen at all unless you were insane or incompetent or both.

Well, those times have gone. Nowadays the best and the brightest are quite likely to find themselves more or less permanently on the industrial scrap heap; and sooner or later that may very well mean dependence on the state.

Unfortunately, however, the state takes the view that its help should be restricted only to the deserving (that is, those ready and willing to work if the right work comes along) who happen to be poor as well.

So once the unemployment benefit runs out (after a year for those on the flat-rate; the earnings related supplement—which is shortly to be phased out anyway—never lasted for more than six months) it is necessary for those brought up on the notion that some income ought to be put by, to reverse the habits of a life-time and to spend their savings instead.

Supplementary benefit, which is designed to keep the wolf from the door when unemployment benefit runs out, is not paid to anyone with savings in excess of £2,000. And savings, in this context, covers not merely money in the bank or the building society, but also investments of all varieties, including any life assurance policies such as whole life or endowment on which there is a surrender value. This, believe it or not, despite the Government's active encouragement of such long-term savings, which can carry a substantial measure of protection too, through tax relief.

All that is excluded is the individual's home (if he/she is an owner occupier), and personal possessions such as clothes, furniture and a car.

Now, granted that no taxpayer will take kindly to the notion that the state should maintain an individual with enough in the bank to maintain himself, there are still a couple of strong objections to be raised against this policy.

First of all there is the issue of principle. This is an incentive to spending, rather than saving. In particular, it is an incentive to spending the redundancy payments which are the only capital sum which those individuals most likely to become unemployed will ever acquire.

The arguments for retaining the cash as a cushion against further misfortune simply disappear towards the end of the first year of unemployment—unless, of course, the sum is sufficient to provide an income in excess of supplementary benefit. But that would have to be quite some sum.

In addition to rent (or mortgage interest payments) and rates, anyone on supplementary benefit is given an allowance to cover his living expenses.

A married man with two children under 11, for instance, would be getting just short of £50 a week. Assuming that his mortgage interest payments and rates were worth a further £100 a month, he would have to be able to earn £75 a week—or £3,750 a year—from his savings, to make it worth his while to hang onto anything in excess of £2,000.

Even at present interest rates, and assuming that he paid no tax at all, that means he would have to have accumulated £30,000. If he had anything between £2,000 and £30,000 at the point at which he became eligible for it, he would have to go onto supplementary benefit, the best thing he could do with this capital would be to spend it as soon as possible. And you would have to spend it carefully. The Supplementary Benefits Commission take a dim view of applicants who have wasted their substance on riotous living (that is, those who have taken lengthy holidays in the South Seas, or purchased expensive motor cars, or otherwise spent the money in ways quite at variance with the standard of living to be expected of other people in their position).

They also take a dim view of people who give the money away in handouts. There is no point in giving it to your wife and children anyway, since it is the whole of the family's assets that are taken into account in assessing resources.

Where the money has disappeared in ways which cannot subsequently be explained to the Commission's satisfaction, they have powers to impose it to the claimant and refuse him benefit on the grounds that he has squandered the money. The limit—which could be very awkward if the money simply cannot be recovered.

It is, however, permissible to spend on a house, for example by making major repairs ahead of the bad times to come; on consumer durables, by buying a "suitable" car maybe, or a

new set of carpets; and on certain capital items.

It is legitimate to pay off the mortgage, but it is not a good idea, particularly if most of the monthly payments that you make are interest, which the DHSS will pay for you.

It is also legitimate to spend on buying a more expensive house, though it might be difficult to find a lender prepared to make an advance (though council tenants wanting to buy their homes have a built-in advantage if they apply while under notice, since councils are obliged to refrain from taking their future prospects into account). And it is legitimate to buy a deferred annuity with a view to boosting income at some time in the future (deferred annuities have no surrender value).

Such stratagems apart, however, the fact of the matter is that the present system promotes extravagance among the unemployed, while it encourages thrift (for example, by tax reliefs on long-term savings) in everyone else. And the balance ought to be redressed.

In an ideal world the answer might be to exempt savings up to the limit at which they produce an income equal to supplementary benefits—taking an objective figure (for instance, the rate of interest on the NSB savings account) as the assumed yield, to get round the problem of the wide boys who would pop the lot into gold or land for the sake of the capital appreciation.

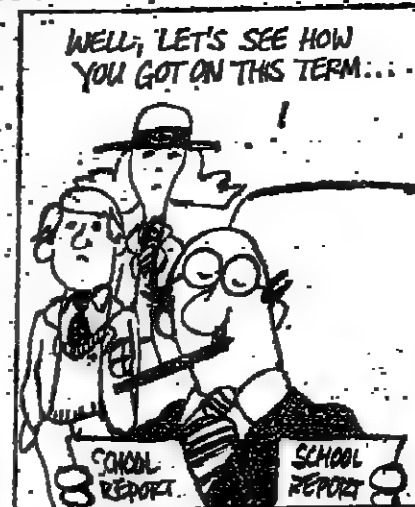
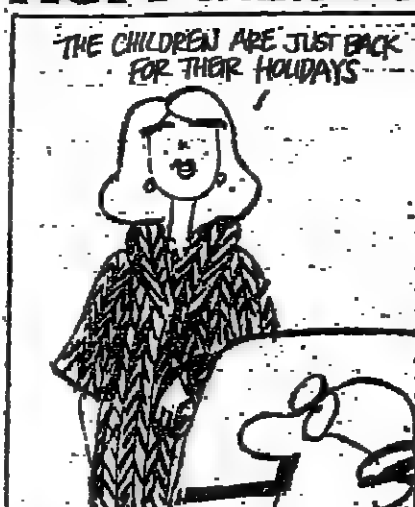
Of course, that would leave people who had managed to accumulate savings (or who had held onto their redundancy payments) better off than those who had not; but then every form of encouragement to savings and investment relies on doing precisely that.

Since this is not an ideal world, the best that can be hoped for is an increase in the savings limit. That was only brought in November last year, but the previous limit (£1,200, with every £50 over that to £3,000) had been in force since the mid-1960s, and prices have more than trebled since.

The present limit—the second of the objections to the system as it stands—is quite absurdly low, particularly in view of the Budget moves to exempt from tax all redundancy payments under £25,000.

Adrienne Gleeson

## HOFF of HEYBRIDGE HEATH



## Unit trusts

## Green light for traded option deals

The unit trust industry has been granted permission by the Department of Trade to deal in traded options. But the rules mean this new freedom is not going to be a charter for speculative or for rash dealings by unit trust managers.

There is to be a two-tier structure for unit trusts wishing to deal in traded options. Existing funds, provided they have unitholder approval for a change in the trust deed, will be able to operate.

But the restrictions will be quite onerous. New unit trusts designed and sold specifically to invest in traded options will not have limits imposed.

Old funds will be able to write up to 50 per cent of the value of their portfolio (provided they have the stock); they will be able to purchase options provided they have the cash to cover the entire operation, and provided that no more than 25 per cent of assets is earmarked for the options (on the basis of purchase at "exercise" prices).

The need for cash cover effectively negates much of the speculative element of purchased options—and makes it likely that fund managers will probably wish to use them only when they want to hedge their position.

It will take three to four months for the funds to get the supplemental deeds passed. Most groups will probably choose to make their general fund the chosen vehicle for investing in traded options here in Amsterdam, the United States or even in Australia.

## Credit

## When the borrowing had to stop

Those dismayed at the growth of free and easy, if not exactly cheap credit, will find much ammunition in the sad tale of Mr Paul Alton, a south Yorkshire reader.

Mr Alton has just turned 22, but the 15 banks, finance and credit card companies which have lent him more than £5,000 over the past few years will not be sending their greetings. Last January he sent them all a letter pointing out that he could not keep his total monthly payments of £299 a month from a take-home pay of somewhat less.

Now £5,000 is a lot of money for someone of such comparatively tender years. He has nothing to show for it except a lavishly customized Ford Cortina and a pile of threatening letters.

He started his impressive financial career at 17 when he bought a motor-bike with a loan of £500 and has been borrowing from Peter to pay Paul ever since.

Ironically enough he is a trainee cost accountant. Sensibly he has devised a repayment programme which to his credit, if that is the right word, all the banks accepted. But he will still be paying £200 a month, nearly three-quarters of his earnings, and the last debt will not be cleared for four years.

Mr Alton is the first to admit he has been foolish. But he is amazed how easy it is to buy now and find yourself in difficulties paying later. Last Christmas he bought his fiancée a sewing machine. On hire purchase of course.

He cannot keep up his repayments on earlier commitments but he still finds he can borrow more. The form he signed required hardly any financial details. He has since taken out a £100 loan from a local clearing bank, again no probing questions. His biggest single debt is £2,570 to Western Trust and Savings which frequently advertises unsecured postal loans in the press.

He took this out in 1978, initially borrowing £1,000. He wanted one single sum to cover all his debts which were burdensome but, by later standards, not yet catastrophic. At 18 he

had acquired an Access and Barclaycard. Both soon offered an increase in credit limits which he gratefully accepted. He was finding it hard to meet his HP payments.

He then acquired a Trustee Savings Bank credit card and a second Access card through a different bank. He now has two separate Access accounts and no one seems to have noticed. The beauty of credit cards as Mr Alton saw it is that you can draw out cash from one to pay the retired monthly minimum on the other. He once transferred £100 in one day.

By this time he had worked his way through several motorbikes graduating to a car by way of a series of hire purchase agreements. What did not go on payments went on petrol and running costs. A young man had

to have clothes. That was easy. At around this time many high street shops climbed on the credit card bandwagon. He went into Burtons and John Gutter and opened accounts finding himself with another £250 or so of credit immediately.

Mr Alton says that the possession of a credit card seems to inspire confidence in potential lenders. When he had finally exhausted all avenues he applied to Western Trust for the £1,000 and got it. The trouble was that his monthly Barclaycard statement, dated through the door on the same day, bearing the offer of a Master Loan for which he sent off just in case Western Trust turned him down. Master struck. He got both.

He did not have to declare the one to the other because when he applied he had not

either. The £2,000 more than covered his debts. But the repayments amounted to £70 a month out of his £200 take-home pay. He sold the car and bought himself a push-bike. But soon he began to feel rich again. He lived at home with his parents who did not charge him very much. And he had some cash in hand from the loan.

He bought another car, the splendidly upholstered Cortina he still drives around in. It was not quite as splendid when he bought it, mind, but after an orgy of repairing and respraying, refitting and needless to say reborrowing, it was transformed into the highly individual vehicle he has today. Complete with wall to wall carpeting, floor to roof fake fur upholstery, a leather sun roof and a tassel interior finish that would be the envy of a Middle East taxi driver.

He reckons he has spent £3,000 at least on the car. It was all downhill after this. He was up against his credit limits on everything. Then Western Trust let him increase his loan twice. He borrowed elsewhere too. He got £250 from Lloyds & Scottish. By January 1980 he had run up monthly commitments of £200 against take-home pay of £215. So it was back to Lloyds & Scottish for another £300.

He stopped off at a local corner shop moneylenders for a further £100, again no questions asked, before eventually calling a halt in the new year. Well, not quite a halt because he has borrowed a little since.

Mr Alton is unbelievably real. He has a lovely Mum, an optimistic fiancée and of course a splendid car. He knows he is in blame for his problems but he has this to say:

"You see all these companies offering you money. You get sucked in and you do not realize what can happen to you until it is happening. I wish it had not all been so easy. I wish the companies had looked a bit harder. I did not make any false statements along the way, not that I know. One thing just led to another."

Margaret Drummond



Mr Paul Alton: "You got sucked in... I wish it had not been so easy."

## Investor's week

## How much steam left in market?

As I write the space shuttle Cape Canaveral is still on the ground, but the stock market shuttle has lifted off. They tell me that the luckless astronauts will fall blood rushing to their heads as their craft hurtles speed, but the same thing has happened to investors in London this week.

Up went the FT all-share index of 30 stocks to new peaks and upward climbed the FT index of 30 industrials from 539.6 to 551.3. But, as the week closed, we were left tantalized and breathless. The door marked 538.3, first opened on May 4, 1979, when we celebrated the Iron Lady's victory, has still to give.

Not for the first time, the staid, sedate and sober men who study those things warned us against impetuosity. Some Charities, like Robin Griffiths of Carr, Selous, say that the rise has carried shares almost to their "trend lines". Others, such as Chart Analysis, pointed to the acceleration in the stock market shuttle's rate of climb and said it could not go on indefinitely.

Brokers Sheppards and Chase, and Laurie Milbank, talked of the market as "technically overbought."

When the number of equity bargains rises above 30,000, as it did a few days ago, one sees their point. Activity at this pitch is in historical terms frantic. A rise, virtually uninterrupted, from 446 in January in the FT index of 30 stocks does indeed make one feel dizzy. A dividend yield of only 5.6 per cent in the

FT all-shares index looks derisory.

The yield gap against gilt-edged is wide, though not as wide as it has been. Moreover, the share buying looks indiscriminate. If you believe that double-figure inflation will return, you buy beneficiaries like food retailers, stores and property. The market did.

If you believe that the Iron Lady is conquering inflation then you can do better than buy manufacturers, hitherto beset by soaring costs of new plant and of financing stocks. The market has done this too.

Finally, it is obvious that a lot of shares are rising for no other reason than that the market as a whole is going up. This week we ignored the Automotive Products turned £13.47m of profits into £3.07m taxable losses, but marked the virtually unchanged dividend and signs of upturn in trading. Glyndwed, one of the market's favourite high yielders, cut its pay-out by a fifth, but the market thought the profits fall could have been worse: the shares rose with relief.

Down went the 1980 profits of Bewater, but up went the shares on a maintained dividend and thoughts of the United States, and the oil and coal that might be beneath them. But British Sugar shares faltered after reports that S. & W. Berisford might not bid after all.

Peter Wainwright

## MAIN CHANGES OF THE WEEK

Year's high	Year's low	Company	Change	Comment
250p	137p	Barratt Doves	8p to 243p	Interest rate hopes
180p	148p	Bowthorpe	15p to 178p	Year's figures please
189p	122p	Carlisle Capel	11p to 146p	Humbly Grove oil hopes
91p	72p	M. May	6p to 88p	Bid talk revives
164p	127p	GKN	16p to 164p	Recovery hopes

Year's high	Year's low	Company	Change	Comment
420p	362p	BP	4p to 378p	Out of fashion
134p	100p	Northern Foods	3p to 187p	Profit taking
264p	156p	KCA	18p to 182p	Prelim figures
143p	114p	Morgan Crucible	5p to 139p	Year's figs disappoint
142p	72p	NCC Energy	18p to 121p	End of US com bid talk

## Round-up

## CU's progressive policy

Commercial Union is the latest insurance company to tackle the need for insurance linked to rising premiums—which provides more realistic benefits at the end of the day.

Its Progressive Saver policy is a 10-year contract with premiums automatically increasing by 10 per cent a year compound for the first five years—lifting the estimated maturity value by 45 per cent. The policy is sold in chunks of £5 (net premium) a month with a minimum investment of £15.

Lionel and Dorothy Geon, who resigned from the board of Langham Life in February following a "disenchantment on policy," have re-emerged in a group with Lloyds Life: The Fair Share Investment Plan for Women, which they launched last week, has many of the

characteristics of the WISP policies which they developed at Langham Life, but is more flexible in respect of continuing cover during pregnancy. This is to be the flagship policy of the new Dorothy Geon Women's Financial Service.

Premium Life Assurance has launched a tenth fund, Premium Life Data Managed, which is to have worldwide coverage of equities, gilts and currencies, and to be managed (by Stockport-based Analysed Investment Data Services) on chartist lines. The investment managers have run a similar fund since October 1979, which has produced twice the growth of the FT Index, but the period is too short to provide a basis for judging performance. Other funds run on these lines have been disappointing.

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	1980	1979
TURNOVER		
Investment	6,010,519	5,148,855
Trading	4,863,731	4,873,893
PROFIT after taxation, minority interest and exceptional items		
1979 and prior financial capital	421,424	368,614
development properties		
EARNINGS per 20p Ordinary Share	1.15p	0.75p
ORDINARY DIVIDEND per share for the year	1.50p	1.25p
COST OF ORDINARY DIVIDENDS		
Interim payable on 35,614,731 (1979—33,325,714) and final payable on 37,528,221 (ordinary 20p shares (1979 on 35,387,441))	552,706	443,355
UNDISTRIBUTED PROFITS carried forward	829,500	763,145
PROPERTIES		
Investment	63,867,292	64,128,268
Trading	3,775,914	4,420,725

The directors estimate that a valuation of investment properties would show a net surplus in excess of £11 millions over the book value.

No credit has been taken for this in the accounts, but if it were the net asset value would be about 148p per ordinary share, or fully diluted 132p.

Trading properties are stated at aggregate cost, which is lower than aggregate valuation.

REGISTERED OFFICE

Brettenham House, Lancaster Place, London WC2E 9EP

## SCOTTISH PROVIDENT

### Record Bonuses

**From the Statement by the Chairman, Mr James A. Lumsden, MBE, TD, DL, LL.B.**

**1980 Bonus Declaration**

This year our results have enabled us not only to maintain the record rate of bonus of 25% p.a. declared three years ago on major immediate-profits assurance bonus of 25% of all previously declared bonus attaching to each of these policies. This means that the effective rate of the bonus figures announced is significantly improved for policies of long duration, and, indeed, can exceed 66% p.a. for some annuities and 'E' Type retirement benefits. The rate of bonus declared has been increased to 67% p.a. compared with the then record announcement of 66.40% p.a. three years ago and, in addition, these policies too will receive the special 25% bonus on bonus.

For the future we shall be compounding bonuses every year instead of once every three years, which will have the effect of increasing quite markedly the value of a given rate of bonus. For example, p.a. payable on immediate-profits assurance is equivalent to 25.09% p.a. compounded triennially—and the rate of deferred annuities and the 'E' Type retirement plans is equivalent to 27.22% p.a. compounded triennially.

In addition, our strong investment position has enabled us to increase significantly the claims bonus payable on policies becoming claims by death or

as well as to increase the number of policies entitled to this bonus—policies which entered the appropriate with-profits class in 1974 or earlier now qualify.

**Five to Ten Plan**

Earlier this year we extended our range of open-ended assurances with the introduction of our Five to Ten Plan, which, as the name suggests, caters for the medium term saver. Fundamentally, the contract is a ten year with-profit termination assurance, but it provides for period by guaranteeing a basis for the calculation of a termination value (the actual amount will depend on bonuses) at onwards. The plan has been very well received by our brokers and other agencies and its uses have included a number of specific applications such as the provision of school fees or the repayment of loans.

**Broker registration**

Last year I welcomed the steps insurance brokers were taking to maintain and indeed raise professional standards. It can only be to the benefit of the public that advice on insurance matters is readily available from an independent intermediary with a wide knowledge of the market. Accordingly, we would favour an increasing proportion of insurance business being dealt with by insurance brokers, and an intensification of efforts to ensure that those who are not brokers do not represent themselves as such to the public.

Copies of the Report and Accounts are available on request from the Head Office, The Scottish Provident Institution, 6 St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YA.

## SCOTTISH PROVIDENT



EDITED BY MARGARET STONE

friendly societies

## Small savers find favour

Normally I am opposed to discrimination but I do find it difficult to turn my nose up at the near little tax-efficient policies offered by friendly societies—just because they are not all available to one and all. In fact, only married men and mothers need to read further.

Friendly societies are a Victorian legacy which continue to flourish. Originally they were formed to provide funeral expenses or modest sick pay, but later they placed emphasis on conventional life assurance cover—with an important difference.

Friendly societies, unlike life insurance companies, are permitted to invest in a tax-free fund, so that their clients, who are not all available to one and all, can have the advantages of investing in a tax-exempt fund.

Regulations control at least 50 per cent of the underlying fund: under the provisions of the Trustee Act 1961 at least 50 per cent of premiums must be invested in what are known as "narrow range" securities—cash, bank deposits, gilts, building society deposits and local authority stock. The balance can be invested in equities and authorized unit trusts.

Family Assurance is the doyen of this particular class of friendly societies, and it offers the most comprehensive selection. Its "A" fund is closed to newcomers but the policyholders who got in at the beginning have seen their fund almost triple in five years.

Its "D" fund, 100 per cent in gilts, has almost doubled in five years while the Capital fund with a 75 per cent gilt/25 per cent equity portfolio, has done better still, and is up nearly 70 per cent in 12 months.

These results are comfortably in excess of the 12.5 per cent a year return which is the conventional growth projection for tax-exempt funds. (It compares with the 7.5 per cent annual return estimated for tax-bearing investments.)

On the other hand, some of the building society-linked friendly societies plans work on a higher assumption because of favourable investment returns from the chosen building society.

So, for example, the Home-owners Friendly Society, which

FRIENDLY SOCIETY UNIT-LINKED FUNDS	
Friendly society	Portfolio breakdown
Family Assurance	Gilts (75%), equities (25%)
Capital	Gilts (50%), M & G Pensions Exempt (50%)
Britannia units	Britannia Gilt (50%), other Britannia funds (50%)
General Building	Gilts (100%)
Society Plan	Building society selection (100%)
Albion	Albion Building Society (100%)
Home-owners	Bradford & Bingley Building Society (100%)
Prosperity Plan	Northern Rock Building Society (50%)
Fleet	Framlington Cap. Units (50%)
St. Andrew's	Local authority stock (100%)
High Yield	Bank deposits (100%)
Capital Security	
Lancs & Yorks	Gilts (80%) local authority (20%)
Capital Secure	

invests exclusively in the Bradford & Bingley Building Society, quotes projected returns of over 15 per cent.

While interest rates remain high, the friendly society schemes linked to high yielding bearing investments will look attractive, as indeed are the available past returns (covering a period of high interest rates).

The stronger equity content of some funds on the other hand, could prove as impressive in the future. Both Britannia and Framlington, whose funds have been chosen as linking vehicles by Family and Fleet respectively, have shown up well on the performance tables.

Charges vary with each of the friendly societies, but on balance, are moderate, and are basically taken at the outset. Family, for example, allows only the investment of four months' premiums in the first year, St. Andrew's withholds six months' premiums, Home-owners' two. Fleet takes £50 out of the first half yearly payment. In addition there is an annual management charge usually of 1 per cent.

Although the amounts that can be invested are relatively modest, that is no reason to turn your back on this very useful form of investment if you qualify either as a married man or a mum.

You get tax relief on your premiums (which you pay net) which means that every £20.50 a month you save another £3.64 (the tax relief) is invested on your behalf. And you get all the benefit of investing in a fund which rolls up free of all taxes.

Margaret Stone

In the first place, only those in and women—married or not—with a child, are eligible because the death benefits have to be paid to just a dependent. However, the policy can be surrendered at any time by the policyholder, and to make the most of a friendly society policy, it should be for at least 10 years. After encashment of the policy would lead to a poor return indeed because the minimum surrender value the policy society is permitted to pay before the first 10 years is up, is the return of gross premiums paid.

The third restriction on early society investment is actual amount you can get, which is the minimum net premium of 126 a year or £20.60 a month, double the amount it is to be before last year's new Act. With most policies you can either pay premium monthly, half yearly or annually; another option is to make one half rate, that is £10.30 a month or £123.60 annually.

With the roll-up of tax free investments, friendly societies based upon the conventional life assurance endowment formula, where the benefits are decreed by the actuary, are good value. But the extent of unit-linking has made them more obviously attractive, here are now five friendly

## Tax problems and housing

1972 I purchased the freehold of a house for £15,000. It was a condition of the purchase that the protected tenant, an elderly widow, who had access to several parts of the building, should be re-housed in a self-contained flat in the basement of the building.

In addition to the purchase, therefore, was the building cost of £11,000. Because of age of employment I was hired by my employer to build this property. In 1977 for £50,000. During period of my occupation, the protected tenant paid a rental of £2 a week which increased on one occasion to the increase in rate to £2.50 a week.

I used in part to buy the hold interest in my present house and the remainder of the house and more will be used for building work to be done with the renewal of lease. HM Inspector of taxes is claiming, however, that a gain tax should be paid on "profit" made from the house together with the money on the building and the price on my original house was there is a tenancy in view of the fact that this did not even actually

cover the costs of the tenant this seems particularly hard. Is the inspector correct? (JMcLS, London NW1).

Unfortunately the inspector of taxes is correct—this may seem hard but capital gains tax is often an inequitable tax on "paper" gains due to inflation. The exemption for an individual's principal private residence is only available for the part of the property actually occupied by him. The one exception to this is where a property is occupied by a dependent, relative but this is not likely to apply here.

I am afraid that the way in which you have used the proceeds of sale does not affect the tax position in any way.

The inspector is probably arguing that the exemption should be restricted by reference to the number of rooms occupied by the tenant. However, the legislation is silent as to the way in which the restriction should be calculated. The basement is probably the least valuable part of the house, and it may be argued that the chargeable gain should be ascertained by applying the fraction

market value of let part to the overall gain. This will be especially beneficial if the tenant was still in occupation when you sold the

property. So although the inspector is correct in saying that the full exemption cannot apply, you may be able to argue that only a small part of the overall gain is chargeable.

My wife and I are directors of a small private limited company which I founded in 1948. Two years ago, as we are both approaching retirement age, we sold the company to another person who continued to live in the house, which is owned by the company, and in which we have lived for the past 18 years. Apart from our children there were no other shareholders in the company, and no other assets, apart from this house.

If the company sells the house on the open market it will attract an excessive amount of capital gains tax. If, however, HM Inspector of taxes would allow us to purchase the house as sitting tenants, the amount of CGT liability would be considerably reduced. We have obtained two independent valuations of the property based on the assumption that we are sitting tenants. (GN, Oxford).

It is generally not a good idea for a company to own a property occupied by one of the directors, shareholders, and so on, as his main residence. The capital gains tax exemption, which would apply if the director owns the property personally, is not available to the company. Therefore, a sale of the property may attract a 30 per cent capital gains charge.

Furthermore, before the shareholder can enjoy profits accumulated within a company, including capital gains, he must have a disposal of his shares either by sale or by having the company liquidated. Such a disposal may in turn attract a further capital gains tax charge. Therefore, owning a main residence through a company can mean a double capital gains tax charge where none would arise if the property had been held personally.

It may be that you intend to dispose of the property in order to purchase a new residence which is more suitable for your retirement. If this is the case, and you intend to dispose of the present property in any event, it may make sense to "take a view on this matter and purchase the property at a tenanted valuation. There is, however, a real possibility of the Revenue invoking anti-avoidance legislation and I would normally be inclined to leave matters as they are at present.

If you do intend to proceed with a sale you should speak to the company's accountant and solicitors and see that you are given specific advice concerning Section 19(3b) and Section 62(5) Capital Gains Tax Act 1979.

You should also ask your professional adviser's views on the possibility of an income tax charge, either under section 233 Taxes Act 1970 or under the rules governing the benefit received in connection with an employment. Much might turn upon whether you have a formal lease from the company; whether the Revenue will accept a "sitting tenant" valuation will depend upon the particular facts of the case.

## Bank Base Rates

BN Bank	12%
Barclays	12%
ICI	12%
Consolidated Crds	12%
Hoare & Co	12%
Lloyds Bank	12%
Fullbank Bank	12%
Westminster	12%
SB	12%
Williams and Glyn's	12%

7 day deposit on sums of £10,000 and under 5% over £50,000 10% over

M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited  
7/28 Lovat Lane London EC3R 8EB Telephone 01-621 1212  
The Over-the-Counter Market

1000	100	10	1	Company	Price	Ch's	Gross	Vtd	P/E
75	39			Airsprung Group	72	-1	4.7	6.5	11.4
40	21			Armistead & Rhodes	50	-1	1.4	2.8	20.6
32	21			Bardon Hill	191	-	9.7	5.1	7.2
38	38			Deborah Services	98	-	5.5	5.6	4.9
26	88			Frank Horsell	105	-	6.4	6.1	3.3
10	39			Frederick Parker	50	-1	1.7	3.4	21.7
10	68			George Blair	68	-1	3.1	4.6	-
10	59			Jackson Group	106	-	7.9	6.7	9.7
24	103			James Burrough	118	-	31.3	9.8	-
3,364				Robert Jenkins	320	-	5.3	10.2	3.8
55	50			Scruttons "A"	52	-	15.1	7.2	3.6
24	209			Torday Limited	209	-	-	-	-
23	8			Twinkl Ord	111	-	-	-	-
90	69			Twinkl 15% ULS	72	-	15.0	20.8	-
56	35			Unilock Holdings	45	-	3.0	6.6	6.9
03	81			Walter Alexander	101	-	5.7	5.6	5.6
563	181			W. S. Yeates	255xd	-	13.1	5.1	4.8

## FINANCIAL NEWS

## Stock markets

## No breakthrough but strong rise continues

Equities began the long three-week Easter account in good form yesterday, attempting to pull out all the stops in an effort to see the FT Index break through its all-time high. Dealers again expressed surprise at the strength of demand with prices surging ahead from the outset. Once again attention was focused on the recovery sectors with the market now firmly of the opinion that the worst of the recession is over. In both goods and engineering came in for inquiry, along with electricals for their technology value and rubber plantations on the strength of recent land deals.

However, with stock shortages in several sectors giving exaggerated price movements, a certain amount of profit taking was inevitable after hours. A Sentiment was further upset by news that the imminent merger of Quilter, Hillen, Godson and Henderson, Stirling Grumbar had been "deferred" for the time being. And later Heddewick was officially "hammered".

At the event, the FT Index, which had been seen at new heights, closed only 1.5 higher at 551.3, having been 6.5 higher at midday. This leaves it just 7.3 below the all-time high of 558.6 achieved on May 4, 1979.

Once again, Government securities were left in the cold by investors who are still weighed down by the many recent top stocks. Indeed, the absence of any new tap being announced after hours saw

prices rally slightly, but this was cancelled out by news that Chase Manhattan had increased its prime rate by 1 per cent to 17 1/2 per cent.

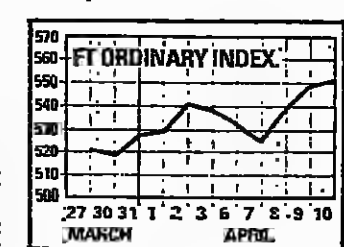
Nevertheless, by the close the tone still remained firm and a few cheap buyers forced rises of between 1/2 and 1 1/2 in longs and 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 in shorts.

Leading industrials spent a relatively quiet day with most buyers' attention focused on the second liners.

Small gains were seen in ICI, up 2p to 266p and British Aerospace, 3p to 211p. Hawker Siddeley added 2p to 334p and Glaxo shed a similar figure at 32p. Both ahead of figures next week. Bowater was able to make further ground on its recent figures and suggestions of a possible United States bid. The shares closed 10p higher at 27p.

Shares of F. Wrighton returned from suspension 11p higher at 75p, with terms of a

bid from Greenbrook. Incheape slipped 2p to 458p after announcing the acquisition of Lloyd's Bank International's South American interest for £11.8m. This meant the issue of another 2.78m shares placed at 430p net.



The movement of the 30-share index over the two-week account.

Elsewhere on the bid front, British Sugar rallied 5p to 308p after recent fears that S & W Berisford, unchanged at 120p,

might not step in with a new bid. But higher terms from Crown House saw Denbyware leap 37p to 123p. Profit taking clipped 11p from Rathmans International "B" at 80p. The group is still in talks with R. J. Reynolds. Royal Bank of Scotland recovered 2p at 166p from worries of a monopolies reference. Hongkong & Shanghai also rose 2p to 135p but Standard Chartered tumbled 18p to 644p.

Speculative buying was good for 430p on Mercantile House at 663p, 4p on A1 Industrial at 24p, 7p on ERF Holdings at 45p, 6p on Bernard Priest at 43p, 7p on Neil & Spencer at 50p and 5p on Mitchell Somers at 38p. Comment was good for 10p rise in Scapa Group at 126p and stock shortages benefited Martin the Newsagent 18p to 238p, Waring & Gillow 17p to 169p and Davies & Newman 14p to 168p.

Improved figures, and a £2.5m cash call to shareholders

lifted Fothergill & Harvey 12p to 134p and more than doubled profits lifted Lyle Shipping 10p to 373p. Only Brown Boveri Kent at 191p and Triplevest at 841p failed to impress, both losing 1p each.

Still reflecting recent figures, F. J. C. Lillie added 12p to 158p, Feb International A & B to 92p and Taylor Woodrow rallied 10p to 579p.

Engineering shares had a lively time with most regarded for their recovery potential. Buyers came in for Associated Engineering, 6p higher at 51 1/2p. B. Elliott 14p to 190p, Haden Carrier 10p to 288p, IMI 5p to 71p, Laird Group 7p to 189p while the chairman's optimistic remarks boosted Automotive Products 7p to 63p.

Among the leaders, GKN rose 8p to 164p and Tubes 4p to 218p as Vickers hardened 3p to 179p and Smiths Industries 10p to 350p.

Equity turnover on April 9 was £217.64m (23,363 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to the Exchange Telegraph, were GKN, Waring & Gillow, IMI, Bowater, Thorn EMI, Associated News, Thomas Tilling, GEC, Martin the Newsagent, Eagle Star and Tanks. Traditional options saw three month calls in GKN at 14p, Premier Cons at 8 1/2p, Dunlop at 7 1/2p and a double was arranged in ICI at 32p.

Traded options: Dealers reported further strong inquiry with 1,415 contracts completed just slightly below the previous day's level of 1,854.

## Latest results

Company	Sales	Profits	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
£m	£m	per share	per share	per share	date	total
Int'l Fin	3,141.83	1,329.01	1.06	1.06	—	—
F. Austin (I)	89,418.31	0.03(0.02)	—	—	—	—
Chapman (F)	0.54(0.41)	0.03(0.02)	—	—	—	—
Fothergill (F)	18.61(17.76)	1.82(1.76)	21.99(24.53)	5.0(3.0)	—	—
Tele Shipping (F)	21,578(13,745)	6.67(3.35)	101.9(53.0)	5.3(—)	—	—
Montage Boston (F)	0.14(0.15)	—	—	1.05(1.05)	—	—
F. Miller (F)	8.05(7.97)	3.2(2.07)	—	1.3(—)	—	—
Rock Durban (F)	1.95(1.23)	0.24(0.25)	2.9(3.71)	NI(NH)	—	—
Supra Group (F)	9.5(9.18)	0.8(1.2)	2.71(6.39)	1.3(—)	—	—

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.423. Profits are shown pretax and earnings are net. \* year against nine months. † net. ‡ loss.

## Stone-Platt rescue is left to City

By Richard Allen

Small shareholders in Stone-Platt Industries, the troubled textile machinery and engineering group, have spurned an opportunity to support a survival package for the company by subscribing for new shares.

As a result, City institutions who rallied to back a financial reconstruction package for the group last month will have to meet almost all of the cost of a £10m capital injection.

An open offer for £7m worth of new convertible cumulative preferred ordinary shares, priced at 25p per value, has drawn applications for only £280,000 worth of stock. The rest will be taken up by underwriters last month. These include Equity Capital for Industry, which is owned by institutions, and Finance Corporation for Industry, the medium-term lending institution backed by the banks.

ECI and FCI had already subscribed for £2m and £1m respectively under original arrangements for the issue. Now they will have to take on a further £1.92m and £960,000 worth respectively, lifting their respective stakes in Stone-Platt to 19.5 per cent and 9.75 per cent.

Institutional sub-underwriters will take on the remaining £3.84m worth of the issue.

Mr Tim Frankland, of Hill Samuel, advisers to Stone-Platt, yesterday denied that the issue had been a flop. "It has gone almost exactly as planned. A big response from small shareholders had not been anticipated", he said.

He added that institutions who were believed to account for about 70 per cent of Stone-Platt's equity had not subscribed in the knowledge that a big rescue would be sacrificed through the underwriting arrangements.

The £10m injection doubles Stone-Platt's equity with the result that shareholders who did not subscribe will see their holdings effectively diluted by 50 per cent.

## Crown House lifts bid for Denbyware

By Our Financial Staff

Crown House has increased its 80p share offer for Denbyware, the pottery group, to 124p, taking the value of its bid from £3.4m to £5.3m.

Crown House also said that it would not increase its revised offer and that the bid would lapse on April 27 unless it could be declared unconditional. On the first closing date last week the company received only 0.05 per cent of acceptances, to add to its 29.9 per cent holding.

The Denbyware directors, who with friends and associates hold more than 40 per cent of the equity, had called the 80p offer "deserious".

## NCC-Simplicity merger expected within two weeks

By Catherine Gunn

Mr Graham Ferguson Lacey, chairman of NCC Energy, hopes to settle merger terms between NCC and Simplicity Pattern of New York within a fortnight. He said yesterday that the merger would effectively give NCC a New York listing. The new group would also be a London listing. Mr Ferguson Lacey wishes to turn NCC into a United States-based group because he thinks exchange controls will be reintroduced here.

He said yesterday that the Simplicity Pattern business had seen sales fall in a declining market for paper patterns.

One possibility would be the sale of the pattern business

## Intasun seeks unlisted quotation

By Rosemary Unsworth

Intasun Leisure Group is seeking a quote on the unlisted securities market. The holiday tour operator, which specialises in Spain and the United States, is offering 15 per cent of its equity, or 7.745m shares, at a minimum tender price of 85p, which would give the whole group a market value of £44.4m.

The directors have estimated that pretax profits for the year to March 31, will be £10.1m, against the previous year's £3m. But the figure includes a spreading of finance costs, including interest of the group's aircraft operation. So the £10m is reduced to £8m against £2.12m for the previous year.

The treatment of the aircraft finance costs was one of the reasons for the group's switch of financial advisers and stockbrokers, and the subsequent delay in the flotation, which was



Mr Harry Goodman, chairman of Intasun Leisure Group.

originally planned for December.

Mr Harry Goodman, the chairman, will remain the largest shareholder with a 39 per cent stake. Sir James Hill & Sons, a

Yorkshire textile and travel group, will hold 17.2 per cent. Other directors will hold a total of 15 per cent of the equity.

About half of the group's holidays are in Spain with 20 per cent going to the United States and the remainder to Malta, Romania, Greece and Italy. Intasun has applied to the unlisted market because it wants to be able to issue marketable securities for acquisitions in future.

Its aircraft subsidiary, Air Europe, has six planes and accounts for 50 per cent of Intasun's own summer capacity. More than £30m has been invested in aircraft operations, which are expected to contribute about £10m of the £100m turnover estimated for 1981.

Estimated earnings a share for 1981 are 9.4p on a notional 52 per cent tax basis and the price-earnings multiple is 9.2. Net assets were £13.6m,

## Fothergill in £4.9m bid and cash call

Fothergill and Harvey, the industrial fibres group, has called on shareholders to put up £2.5m and announced a £4.9m takeover deal.

The group is buying an electrical insulating group, H. D. Symons, which made profits of £1.2m in its last financial year to last April 30. To help finance the deal, Fothergill shareholders are being asked to buy one new share for every three already held.

The price of the new shares is 95p, against a market level of about 118p.

With the takeover deal and cash call, the group also gave news of its 1980 figures. These showed profits had slipped from just over £2m to £1.8m, but shareholders get a maintained dividend of 11.07p gross.

## Bronx expects a first-half loss

At Bronx Engineering Holdings Mr G. B. Crocchi, chairman, says in his annual statement that the current order book is insufficient to ensure full production during the first half of the year and a loss will almost certainly be incurred. Present indications are that there will not be sufficient recovery by the early summer to enable the group to return to a reasonable level of profit by the year end, he says.

## Laganvale price for Strongmead is £1.23m

The board at Laganvale Estate said that the circular relating to the proposed acquisition of Strongmead has been posted to shareholders. Consideration for the acquisition has been certified at £1.23m in shares.

An extraordinary general meeting to approve the acquisition has been convened for April 27.

## AMERICAN TRUST COMPANY LIMITED

## Summary of the report for the year ended 31 January 1981.

- Net asset value per equity share at 31 January 1981 was 80.6p compared with 65.3p last year, up 23.4 per cent.
- The directors recommend total dividends per equity share of 2.10p compared with 1.85p last year, up 13.5 per cent.
- Virtually all of the company's overseas investment is concentrated in North America, which accounts for 42.9 per cent of equity shareholders' interest. Investment policy has mainly been directed towards smaller companies in fields such as electronics and health care, where there are opportunities not generally available in the U.K.
- The company's commitment to the energy sector was further expanded, largely due to a substantial increase in the value of the holding in The Edinburgh Securities Company Limited, worth £6.46 million compared with £2.80 million last year.
- The principal policy objectives of the company are:
  - (i) Emphasis on investment in North America.
  - (ii) The provision to shareholders of long-term growth of income.
  - (iii) Readiness to have sizeable commitments in small or unquoted companies where there are grounds for confidence in long-term prospects.

Copies of the report and accounts may be obtained from the managers and secretaries, Edinburgh Fund Managers Ltd., at 4 Melville Crescent, Edinburgh EH3 7JB, where the annual general meeting will be held on Tuesday 5th May 1981 at 12.15 p.m.



## Wall Street

New York, April 10.—Stocks on the New York Stock Exchange firmed enough in late trading to lift the Dow Jones industrial average back up to the 1,000 level, but just barely at 1,009.27. The average finished with a gain of 1.44 to 1,009.27. Advances led declines by eight to seven.

Volume, heavy during the morning trading, slowed later and the day's total came to about 58,600,000 shares, compared with 59,320,000 yesterday.

**The Wall Street and Canadian**  
stock prices given in the table

stock prices given in the table relate to Thursday's close. Later publication is caused by the change to British Summer Time. This will continue until Eastern Daylight Time begins in the United States on April 26.

Several large banks this morning lifted their prime lending rates to 17 1/2 per cent from 17 per cent. Jack Baker, vice president of First Boston Corporation said a lot of the narrowness in trading today was because of "continuing speculation about Poland".

Another problem was disappointment over the IBM earnings. The street found them 10 per cent to 12 per cent below expectations Mr Baker said. "The oil stocks are still moving lower on the crude price cuts and the supply glut and a lot of stocks seem to be reacting in sympathy."

## US commodities

[illegible]

N: Closed below. day's  
mins of 1.45c in spot May  
n near July. 88.80-88.90c;  
88.80c      Oct.    86.55c

55.85-81.75c March, 81.70 bid  
 14.75c asked; May, 80.20 bid-83.50c  
 14.75c asked; July, 85.00c asked  
 SUGAR (cane) futures settled 0.06c to  
 0.37c higher: May 18.80-188.3c July,  
 18.85-18.90c; Sept., 18.82-18.88c; Oct.,  
 18.85c; Jan., 18.70-18.83c asked;  
 18.85c; Mar., 19.00c asked  
 14.10c July, 19.25c; Serv., 19.25 bid-  
 19.40c asked.  
 COFFEES futures closed a easier trade  
 0.05-0.06c lower: RP 0.45c; with  
 May slipping 0.01c to 124.35c; Jan.  
 May, 124.30-124.40c; July, 125.10-  
 125.25c; Sept., 125.30-125.40c; Dec.,  
 124.75-123.40c; March, 123.40c  
 123.40c; May, 123.40c; July, 123.40c  
 123.75c asked; Sept., 123.50c  
 123.75c asked; July, 123.50c

asked: Sept. 121.39  
asked.

Symbol	Offer	Transt	Big Offer	Yield	Net
<b>Irish Life Assurance</b>					
Irishbury plc	London, ECI		01-629 8253		Net
1.2	226.1		241.8		
1.3	226.1		241.8		
1.4	226.1		241.8		
1.5	226.1		241.8		
1.6	226.1		241.8		
1.7	226.1		241.8		
1.8	226.1		241.8		
1.9	226.1		241.8		
2.0	226.1		241.8		
2.1	226.1		241.8		
2.2	226.1		241.8		
2.3	226.1		241.8		
2.4	226.1		241.8		
2.5	226.1		241.8		
2.6	226.1		241.8		
2.7	226.1		241.8		
2.8	226.1		241.8		
2.9	226.1		241.8		
3.0	226.1		241.8		
3.1	226.1		241.8		
3.2	226.1		241.8		
3.3	226.1		241.8		
3.4	226.1		241.8		
3.5	226.1		241.8		
3.6	226.1		241.8		
3.7	226.1		241.8		
3.8	226.1		241.8		
3.9	226.1		241.8		
4.0	226.1		241.8		
4.1	226.1		241.8		
4.2	226.1		241.8		
4.3	226.1		241.8		
4.4	226.1		241.8		
4.5	226.1		241.8		
4.6	226.1		241.8		
4.7	226.1		241.8		
4.8	226.1		241.8		
4.9	226.1		241.8		
5.0	226.1		241.8		
5.1	226.1		241.8		
5.2	226.1		241.8		
5.3	226.1		241.8		
5.4	226.1		241.8		
5.5	226.1		241.8		
5.6	226.1		241.8		
5.7	226.1		241.8		
5.8	226.1		241.8		
5.9	226.1		241.8		
6.0	226.1		241.8		
6.1	226.1		241.8		
6.2	226.1		241.8		
6.3	226.1		241.8		
6.4	226.1		241.8		
6.5	226.1		241.8		
6.6	226.1		241.8		
6.7	226.1		241.8		
6.8	226.1		241.8		
6.9	226.1		241.8		
7.0	226.1		241.8		
7.1	226.1		241.8		
7.2	226.1		241.8		
7.3	226.1		241.8		
7.4	226.1		241.8		
7.5	226.1		241.8		
7.6	226.1		241.8		
7.7	226.1		241.8		
7.8	226.1		241.8		
7.9	226.1		241.8		
8.0	226.1		241.8		
8.1	226.1		241.8		
8.2	226.1		241.8		
8.3	226.1		241.8		
8.4	226.1		241.8		
8.5	226.1		241.8		
8.6	226.1				

	Apr 9	Apr 8		9	8		9	Apr 8
United Chem	51 1/2	52 1/2	Ex Penn Corp	47	48 1/2	Pub Ser El & Gas	17 1/2	17 1/2

[illegible]

O'Leary Inv (4) 116.8 .. 141, Last Thursday of Stock Exchange account.



ACCOUNT DAYS : Dealings Begin, April 10. Dealings End, April 30.  $\frac{1}{2}$  Contango Day, May 1. Settlement Day, May 1.  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  Forward bargains are per mitted on two previous days

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

[illegible]











